



A place of culture, spirit, family, community Chickasaw elements infused in health care facility



Artist's rendering of the new Chickasaw health care facility Town Center area.

Designers from Page Southerland Page met with a number of Chickasaw citizens and employees early in the planning stages of the new hospital.

The meeting was scheduled to ensure important aspects of Chickasaw culture are incorpo-

rated into the design of the new health facility planned in Ada.

"Chickasaw citizens, health system personnel and designers have worked together to create a comfortable, inviting environment which will address all aspects of the wellness

and healing experience," said Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby. "We plan to go a step beyond providing the best technology and medical equipment available. We also want to address the cultural, spiritual, family and community elements vital to the well-being of everyone concerned."

Larry Speck, Page Southerland Page lead designer on the project, made it clear the firm wants to create a design which is "responsive to the community."

He noted that he has learned that many Chickasaw elders maintain a strong sense of connection to traditional culture.

"This is a golden moment to build a hospital that connects with elders," said Mr. Speck. "We've got to think of this as a social place."

That theme of family and community was mentioned repeatedly during the consultation process.

Since most patients are accompanied by several family members from young children to elders, the need to accommodate

family members of patients was stressed.

Architects designed hospital rooms large enough to accommodate visitors and still allow room for staff to attend to patients.

Traditional images of southeastern tribes have also been incorporated into the architecture.

"By placing culture first, and then integrating the clinical requirements, the design can make an emotional connection between the two worlds," said Chickasaw citizen Glenda Galvan at the time.

Ms. Galvan also made a number of suggestions to help incor-

porate culture into the design of the facility.

A chapel for prayer and worship, and an outdoor area for smudging or cedar ceremonies for traditional cleansing ceremonies have also been incorporated into the plan.

Many of the signs at the facility will also include Chickasaw language.

"This is a great opportunity to build a facility which will incorporate new technology and maintain traditions of the past," said Gregg Elsass, Sr. vice President of Page, Southerland Page.

Contributed by Tony Choate, tribal media relations.

Access, speed, efficiency for new facility

For Chickasaws and other patients utilizing the new Chickasaw Nation health care facility in Ada, improvements in access, registration, configuration and overall speed will quickly become apparent.

The facility groundbreaking

was Nov. 9. Construction is projected to be completed in 28 months.

Each clinic will host its own dedicated registration center. For example, a patient seeking treatment in the women's clinic will proceed directly to the clinic,

where she will check in, register and be seen for treatment. The new registration process is designed to end bottlenecks at a central registration area, and to minimize the time a patient spends registering and waiting.

Decentralized registration is a key component of the new proposed flow of patients through the facility. The outcome should be quicker access to the health care provider, and quicker movement through the process.

Physicians, nurses and care providers will also benefit from the electronic health record system. Providers will have ready access to patients' health information in exam rooms and in-patient rooms.

See Health Care, page 30

Happy little reindeer



Libby Williams enjoys the Chickasaw Nation Child Care Christmas Party Dec. 19 in Ada. Libby is the daughter of Joe and Holly Williams.

Photo by Brooke Tidwell, tribal media relations.

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**CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION
David Stout Building
Ada, Oklahoma
November 15, 2007**

AGENDA ITEM #1 CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson Linda Briggs called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2 ROLL CALL

Members present: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Donna Hartman, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

Members absent: Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz

Staff present: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary, Harold Stick, Sergeant-At-Arms, Robert Cheadle, Legislative Counsel

Guests present: James A. Humes, Judy Fowler, Tandi Ray, Traile G. Glory, Jeff O'Dell Michael L. Wingo, Paula Woods, Jade Eason

AGENDA ITEM #3 INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Ms. Green.

AGENDA ITEM #4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 1, 2007, October 19, 2007, September 21, 2007 (tabled in Session on October 19, 2007)

November 1, 2007 Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. Goforth Parker and seconded by Mrs. Alexander to approve the November 1, 2007 minutes.

Ms. Easterling noted a correction on page two. Dr. Goforth Parker amended her motion to approve the November 1, 2007 minutes as amended.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Donna Hartman, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

9 yes votes

The motion to approve the November 1, 2007 minutes, as amended, carried unanimously.

October 19, 2007 Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. McManus and seconded by Ms. Green to approve the October 19, 2007 minutes.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Donna Hartman, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

9 yes votes

The motion to approve October 19, 2007 minutes carried unanimously.

September 21, 2007 Minutes (Tabled in session on October 19, 2007)

A motion was made by Mrs. Alexander and seconded by Ms. Hartman to take the September 21, 2007 minutes from the table.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Donna Hartman, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

9 yes votes

The motion to take the September 21, 2007, minutes from the table carried unanimously.

Mrs. Alexander asked that page four be amended to include the additional information she provided in regards to the comments she made.

A motion was made by Mrs. Alexander and seconded by Ms. Hartman to approve the September 21, 2007 minutes with the stated amendment.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Donna Hartman, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

9 yes votes

The motion to approve the September 21, 2007 minutes, as amended, carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #5: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

AGENDA ITEM #6: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(A) LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Steve Woods

No report.

(B) FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Holly Easterling

General Resolution Number 25-006, Approval of Development Budget Amendment Child Development Center Phase II

The Child Development Center Phase I Project will provide The Chickasaw Nation with a 25,000 sq. ft. facility to nurture and educate its most valuable asset, its

children. An additional 2000 sq. ft. of space and the detailed finishes that are planned will require additional funding.

The Chickasaw Nation continues its mission, to enhance the overall quality of life for the Chickasaw people, by providing the best possible environment for its pre-school age children. The additional space and state of the art finishes and details that are planned for this facility will raise its status to one of the finest in the country.

The corridors host a town theme complete with residences and business themes that would be found in a typical town. The themes are based on nursery rhymes and stories that stimulate learning through texture, color, shapes and language. Some of the town entities include Jack-Sprat Toy Company, Three Blind Mice Bookstore and The Piggy Bank and Trust. Each theme has 3-dimensional elements that are supported by a mural. The goal of the design team was to create a building that would be both fun and educational for the children attending.

This resolution approves the amendment to the Development Budget for the Child Development Center Phase II, Project Number 20-0060-06 in the amount of \$1,246,192.00.

A motion was made by Ms. Easterling and seconded by Ms. Green to approve GR25-006.

A lengthy discussion followed of the pros and cons of GR25-006. A roll call vote was taken.

Members voting yes: Katie Case, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Donna Hartman, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

8 yes votes

Member voting no: Beth Alexander

1 no vote

The motion to approve GR25-006 carried.

Ms. Easterling concluded her report.

(C) HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Dean McManus

No report.

(D) LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Judy Goforth Parker

General Resolution Number 25-004, Oil and Gas Lease in Atoka County Tribal Tract No. 27

This resolution approves the Oil and Gas Lease requested by R. D. Williams & Company, Ardmore, Oklahoma, which submitted an acceptable bid of \$1,914.17 per acre for a total bonus of \$19,141.70, of which the Chickasaw Nation shall receive \$4,785.43, on property belonging to the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. The lease is in Atoka County, Oklahoma, containing 20.00 acres, more or less, for a primary term of three years with a \$3.00 per acre annual rental for a total of \$30.00, of which the Chickasaw Nation will receive \$7.50 per annum, and a royalty rate of 18.75%.

A motion was made by Dr. Goforth Parker and seconded by Mrs. Alexander to approve GR25-004.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo

See Minutes, page 6

Bill Anoatubby Governor		Jefferson Keel Lt. Governor
		
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Deadline for submission is the 22nd of each month prior to publication. Submissions can be mailed, faxed, hand-delivered or e-mailed.		

Tribe's resolution for 2008 - 'Create Opportunity'

By **BILL ANOATUBBY**
Governor
Chickasaw Nation

As the New Year of 2008 begins, now is a good time to take stock of where we are as a tribe, and what lies ahead for the Chickasaw Nation.

It is a pleasure to report that the Chickasaw Nation is undoubtedly one of the most successful, innovative and secure tribes in the country. The tribe has instituted a myriad of new and enhanced programs and services over the past decade, all designed to support the stated mission of the Chickasaw Nation – to improve the lives of Chickasaw people.

We have accomplished so much together.

We also know there is much that lies before us, and more “building blocks” will be put in

place as we build up our tribe and our people.

The New Year is the perfect time for resolutions. Many of us make personal resolutions with the advent of the New Year. We resolve to exercise more, eat less, read more, spend more time with the grandkids. Each of us has his or her own personal set of resolutions, most often created and reviewed as the New Year dawns.

For the Chickasaw Nation, I believe the prime resolution for 2008 is “create opportunity.”

With so many activities ongoing at the Chickasaw Nation, it is important we regularly review our tribal mission. We want to be certain we are traveling the good path as we in your tribal government serve you. One of the simplest yet most important things we do in government is open doors for Chickasaws every-



Gov. Bill Anoatubby

where. And when a Chickasaw walks through that open door, we want him or her to discover all the wonderful opportunities available.

In 2008 we plan to create opportunity in education, in housing and in health care. New opportunities in tribal business and commerce will be forthcoming.

Our Chickasaw youth, elders and families will benefit from new opportunities presented them by the tribe.

There is so much more to the Chickasaw Nation than our array of programs and services. These essential elements the tribe offers are tremendously important to Chickasaw people. Plus, there is so much more available beyond the “front door” of the Chickasaw Nation.

Beyond the grants, scholarships and other programs we offer students are the successful careers, families and lives those programs help create. The tribal housing initiatives are more than simply roofs over the heads of Chickasaw families – they fulfill dreams and help form the foundation for happy, well-lived lives. The new tribal health care facility is more than a bricks-and-mortar building filled with

equipment and medical staff – it is a healing center where Chickasaws and other Indian people can regain their most precious possession.

Our tribal businesses offer so much more than profits – they provide important employment opportunities and lifelong careers. The specialty camps our youth attend are more than simply a good time together – they are laying the groundwork and the important life lessons our young people will need as they make their life choices.

Each and every program and service the tribe provides has so many more facets, once you travel through that front door.

For 2008, our tribal resolution – “create opportunity” – has the tremendous potential to positively impact every Chickasaw across the country, and around the world!

Mrs. Shavney recalls WWII service at D.C. celebration



Women's Army Auxiliary Corps veteran Beulah Shavney in Washington for the celebration of the Women's Memorial.

Recently, Beulah Shavney traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the dedication of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial. It is believed that Mrs. Shavney, a Chickasaw,

is the only American Indian World War II Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) veteran; certainly she was the only one in attendance at the Anniversary Celebration. Her trip was arranged by Ambassador

Charles Blackwell and his aide Rusty Pickens.

In addition to the three-day celebration activities, Private Shavney visited the National Mall and major monuments; had a privately guided tour of the U.S. Capitol Building courtesy of Congressman Tom Cole's office; enjoyed a personalized visit to the National Museum of the American Indian; and had a special private visit with Ambassador Blackwell at Pushmataha House on Capitol Hill. Mrs. Shavney enjoyed a black-tie celebration dinner at the National Building Museum with 600 fellow attendees and a reunion for over 1,000 service-women veterans at the D.C. National Guard Armory. She then represented the Chickasaw Nation and all American Indian women World War II veterans at the 10th Anniversary Dedication of the Memorial. The events concluded with a candlelight march from the Lincoln Memorial over the Potomac River across Memorial Bridge ending at the Women's Memorial in Arlington Cemetery.

Mrs. Shavney was born April 2, 1922 and raised in Phoenix, Arizona by her father, O.L. Pope, and her mother, Sylvia Gibson Pope, who was one-half Chickasaw and one-half Choc-

taw. In 1940, she graduated from Chilocco Indian School where she studied Home Economics. She then worked at the Phoenix (Arizona) Indian Health Hospital as a surgeon's secretary.

In May 1943, Mrs. Shavney joined the WAAC. Her application was delayed because she was underweight and just below the minimum weight requirement. In order to gain the necessary weight to qualify she says, “I ate bananas and cream for a month!”

After six weeks training at Fort Des Moines in Iowa, Mrs. Shavney held a temporary assignment at Marfa Air Force Base in Texas before she was permanently assigned to Fort Knox (Kentucky) as the secretary to the Captain of the Armor School.

Mrs. Shavney recalls that as an Indian woman in the military she never met any other Indian women during her time in the service.

When asked to reflect on her experiences, Mrs. Shavney spoke of the days when she watched many of the soldiers being shipped out to overseas duty.

“I had a good feeling to be there [at the base], but a sad feeling for the men who were being shipped out,” she said.

Her most notable memory is the newscasts on D-Day. While she was fearful from the threat of our enemies, she said “I felt safe here at home in the States.”

She recalls seeing the pictures of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

“I just had this sinking feeling for all those people,” Mrs. Shavney said.

She was honorably discharged from the WAAC in December, 1945.

In 1944, she married Sergeant Richard Hugo Shavney of Green Island, N.Y., who was assigned to the 779th Tank Battalion. After the war, they returned to his home in New York where they worked in the summers and spent their winters in Phoenix.

They were married for 24 years. Mr. Shavney died of cancer at age 51. They have three children and nine grandchildren, Teresa Knapp, of Oklahoma City, with children Kolin, Kristin, Kellye, and Karoline; Richard Shavney II, of Tulsa, with children Justin, Richard III, and Brooklyn; and, Mary Martin, of Jacksonville, Illinois, with children Garrett and Megan.

Beulah Shavney is a national treasure and truly reflects the unconquerable spirit of the Chickasaw warrior. We share your pride. We salute you.

Multi-million dollar grant big boost for health care



Linda Briggs
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Hello Everyone!

And Merriest of Christmases!

It is a busy time as well as a great and blessed time. And here

in the Chickasaw Nation it is no different. A momentous occasion and truly one of the historic significance occurred this week as the bonds were sold to build the hospital and all of the money is "in the bank." We of course have worked very hard to secure our portion of the funding and then we received the extraordinary gift of the \$30 million a year grant we won from the federal government. Bill Lance, our hospital administrator, and his team made an incredible effort to win that grant and we are so fortunate to have their dedication and ability at work for all of us. As you might imagine a large number of the health care facilities serving Native Ameri-

cans all over the United States were vying for the grant.

When the Governor called to advise the Legislature the documents were signed I stated remembering how much progress we have made in the past 20 years in the area of our healthcare. Twenty years ago the Ardmore clinic was located in small white frame house located behind the campus of Carter Seminary. (Near the location of our present facility). Always I guess there will be room and needed for "improvement" but I can tell you with a certainty that we are in ordinary fortunate as Chickasaws and if we are not exactly where and the way we would like our healthcare to be,

we have truly "come a long way, baby!" I am personally thankful and grateful for what we have every single day I wake up. And it will all keep getting better! The hospital is a huge, giant step in that regard!

Some of the greatest "unsung heroes" of the Chickasaw Nation are our CHR workers who call on our elders and those of us who for any reason might be incapacitated and confined to home. Recently one of our legislators suffered a very serious accident and immediately available as a veritable treasure trove of information to assist her was our CHR from Pauls Valley area, Fred Lyda. If you could I would nominate Fred for sainthood!

He helped so much and most of it on his own time and I know that when Fred gets to heaven (I hope it's a while before he goes!) there will be extra stars in his crown for his incredibly dedicated and unselfish, giving service. Huge accolades to Fred Lyda!

Sometimes in this time of great and joyous celebration our minds track back to days gone by and we have to be careful not to feel saddened by the thoughts of loved ones who have gone on and days past. I wish for you smiles as you remember your special times and laughter for days and times yet to be. God bless every one of you!

Linda Briggs

New Year's resolution: Treasure every day you have



Dr. Judy Goforth Parker
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

you to stop and realize the truth in the biblical teaching. Life at its very best is brief.

Each day that we have is a gift. Do I remember that every day? No. For 2008, I am resolved to treasure a part of each day that I have. If you see me, ask me how I am doing? When we lost my father in 2006, I realized that on one of my last visits with him I was in a hurry. I am going to try

to slow down and enjoy at least some part of each day. Those who know me well realize that this is something that I will really have to work at.

Happy New year again. I hope that you will visit my blog at www.goforthparker.com <<http://www.goforthparker.com>> this year. Hopefully, you will find something that you like about this site and send me a com-

ment. I have discovered that blog writers just love to have comments. I have never been a journaling person, but I do enjoy electronic journaling. If you have not visited the site to watch a seven-minute clip of the November 17, 1998 legislative session at the 100th anniversary of the historic Chickasaw Capitol in Tishomingo, please do so. I think that you will enjoy it.

Once again, have a very happy, blessed, and prosperous New Year. May God bless each and every one of you in the Chickasaw Nation. We have much to be thankful for.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Judy Goforth Parker, PhD, RN
Chickasaw Legislator Pontotoc District, Seat 2

Health facility, new construction booming across Nation



Mary Jo Green
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! Everyone here enjoyed the holidays but are ready to return to the work we do here and maybe lose some of the weight we have gained

so that we are healthy and fit. I wish all of you for 2008 good health and prosperity in the new year. Remember to thank God for the blessings each of us receives daily.

We are happy to report that construction has begun on the new hospital in spite of the inclement weather. Many other construction projects have also begun across the Chickasaw Nation. Let us all pray for a mild winter in order for that construction to continue!

Health System Administrator Bill Lance has submitted the following statistics: for the month of November, 2007, there were 220 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 17,111. November Emergency Room visits were 847. November saw 240 surgeries and the Same-day

Clinic saw 2,746 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 1,655 patients in November. The Ardmore Clinic saw 2,109 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 1,803. The Durant Clinic saw 2,287 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 1,773 in November.

I would love to hear from

you! Please contact me through my email address mary.green@chickasaw.net or through the address and telephone number listed elsewhere in this and every issue of *the Chickasaw Times* and on the Chickasaw Nation web site. My articles are also located on the web site. Until next month, thank you.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

December 17, 2007

Present: Holly Easterling, Dean McManus, Steve Woods, David Woerz, Linda Briggs

Absent: Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott

Human Resources Committee

December 17, 2007

Present: Katie Case, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, David Woerz, Linda Briggs

Absent: Donna Hartman, Wanda Blackwood Scott

Legislative Committee

December 17, 2007

Present: Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

Absent: Beth Alexander, Donna Hartman, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott

Happy New Year in 2008! I am excited about the new year. For me, the new year is a time of reflecting over what has happened in the past and a time to make plans for the future. Like most of you, I do plan new years resolutions, and as I have gotten older, I am actually better at keeping those resolutions. I will share with you ONE of my resolutions for 2008.

I plan to value each and every day as a special and unique gift from God. Let me tell you what has brought me to set this as one of my most important resolutions. For those of you who live in and near the Chickasaw Nation, you are probably aware that we have had several losses in the Chickasaw Nation tribe through death. Death is not an unusual thing, but these deaths have been so unexpected, and so tragic. The shock of it causes

It's time to 'restart and refresh' to begin a great New Year!



**Wanda Blackwood
Tippit Scott**
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

A very happy New Year to all Chickasaws across the country!

This is a great time of the year to "refresh and restart" on

those important goals we may not have met in 2007. There is always something to work on to improve our personal lives, and the lives of those around us. Let's make it a resolution to "get started, get going and get it accomplished!"

There has been plenty of very good news on the education front during the last quarter of 2007. For our younger children, the new sick child care center in Ada will soon be open. This facility will be a great asset for all the working mothers in our area who meet significant challenges when one of the kids is ill. The sick child care center will give the moms a place to bring the kids to be assessed and cared for while mom is at work. As so many women have entered the workplace, this situation has

become a very big issue. We are very happy to be able to respond positively to requests for a facility like this one.

The Fourth Annual Child Care Conference was completed in November in Ada. This conference brings together child care providers from around the area, and each provider benefits from great seminars and information on the latest news and techniques in the world of child care.

Child care assistance is available for those who meet the income guidelines. In October, the program served a total of 163 children, 119 of whom were Chickasaw. This important program helps young moms and families get the child care they need while they are working.

There is a very interesting program going on right now among

our Head Start instructors and child care teachers. All the educators are completing classes in our Chickasaw language. Chickasaw words and phrases are being incorporated in our classrooms and other facilities. This is an important part of our overall language program. We believe that if we introduce the language early enough, more young Chickasaw kids will become interested and weave the language into their daily lives. How exciting!

Moving from our children to our adult education program, I am excited to report that, according to our last Education Division report, we had 111 active GED participants. That is fantastic! Of those 111, a total of 41 were on independent study, and another 11 were at-

large students, meaning they reside outside the traditional boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation. Good luck to all our GED students!

There is so much more to report, but space is running out for this column. I can tell you that our education programs are growing every day, serving more Chickasaw students, from pre-kindergarten through graduate students. Our Chickasaw young people are quickly discovering that knowledge is power, and gaining a good education is like declaring one's own personal independence – the possibilities are endless!

Best wishes to all Chickasaws for a wonderful, happy and prosperous New Year!

Seniors helped through Elderly Utility Assistance Program



Katie Case
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Hello Everybody,

Although this is the January edition of your *Chickasaw Times*, it is actually December as I write to you. While we are busily preparing for the holidays and anxiously anticipating the joys associated with this time of year, northern parts of the Chickasaw Nation are recovering from an ice storm that may well prove to be the most costly natural disaster in the history of the state of Oklahoma. Initial reports indicate that more than half a million Oklahoma households are out of power as a result of the storm. The final tally will undoubtedly be significantly

higher.

Unfortunately, in addition to joy and thoughts of new beginnings, the holiday season often ushers in extreme winter weather.

For our seniors, now is the time to remember and take advantage of the Elderly Utility Assistance Program.

The Elderly Utility Assistance Program provides for up to \$200 assistance, twice a year, for Chickasaws over the age of 60 who live in or outside the traditional boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation. It is worth repeating that all Chickasaws, no matter where you live, can receive this assistance.

In addition to being Chicka-

saw and over 60 years of age, applicants must provide a copy of or proof of application for a Chickasaw Nation citizenship card/certificate, a copy of his/her Social Security card and a copy of the utility bill for which assistance is to be requested.

For both Chickasaws living inside the boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation and those residing outside the boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation, the places to call to get an application are the area offices. The area offices and their respective phone numbers are listed: Ada Area Office: 580-436-7256; Ardmore Area Office: 580-226-4821; Duncan Area Office: 580-252-4119; Purcell Area

Office: 405-527-6667; Sulphur Area Office: 580-622-2888; Tishomingo Area Office: 580-371-9512.

I hope you had a great holiday season and that a wonderful new year awaits you.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your legislator.

Respectfully,
Katie



Colbert hosting open house at Tish Clinic first Wednesdays



D. Scott Colbert
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature chairman and Tishomingo District legislator Scott Colbert hosts an open office for legislative business at the Tishomingo Clinic between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month.

Please make appointments at (580) 622-3218. You may also call on the first Wednesday of every month at (580) 421-3425.

Feel free to contact Colbert if you have any questions.

Hall of Fame nominations being accepted

Nominations are now being accepted for the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame class of 2008.

Nominations must be received by March 1, 2008.

Nominations of living or deceased individuals will be accepted for consideration.

Nominees must have distinguished themselves in their business, profession, craft or vocation, thereby bringing honor to the Chickasaw Nation, and/or

have made outstanding contributions to the Chickasaw Nation or society in general.

Inductees must be citizens of the Chickasaw Nation or be eligible to become a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation.

Elected officials of the Chickasaw Nation are not eligible for induction into the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame while holding office.

Inductees, or one of their surviving family, must commit

to being present for the banquet and induction ceremonies.

A nomination form is available on the Chickasaw Nation website,

http://www.chickasaw.net/docs/HallOfFameNoms_07.pdf

For more information contact Dr. Amanda Cobb-Greetham at (580) 436-7265 or by email at amanda.cobb@chickasaw.net.

Contributed by Tony Choate, tribal media relations.

Minutes, continued from page 2

Green, Donna Hartman, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

9 yes votes

The motion to approve GR25-004 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number 25-005, Oil and Gas Lease in Atoka County, Tribal Tract No. 23 ½

This resolution approves the Oil and Gas Lease requested by R. D. Williams & Company, Ardmore, Oklahoma which submitted an acceptable bid of \$1,914.17 per acre for a total bonus of \$9,570.85, of which the Chickasaw Nation shall receive \$2,392.71, on property belonging to the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. The property is located in Atoka County, Oklahoma, containing 10.00 acres, more or less, for a primary term of three years with

a \$3.00 per acre annual rental for a total of \$15.00, of which the Chickasaw Nation will receive \$3.75 per annum, and a royalty rate of 18.75%.

A motion was made by Dr. Goforth Parker and seconded by Mrs. Alexander to approve GR25-005.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Donna Hartman, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

9 yes votes

The motion to approve GR25-005 carried unanimously.

Dr. Goforth Parker concluded her report.

(E) EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Wanda Blackwood Scott

Chairperson Briggs reported

the committee met several times this month with Ms. Lisa John to discuss the day care facility.

(F) HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Mary Jo Green

Ms. Green stated her report will be in *the Chickasaw Times*.

(G) HISTORICAL AND

December 2007 Resolutions**General Resolution Number 25-007**

Approval of Application for Funding-Administration on Aging, Title VI, Part A Grants for Native Americans and Title VI, Part C Grant for Native American Caregiver Support

Explanation: This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's application for funding through Title VI, Part A, of the Older Americans Act and Part C.

Presented by: Human Resource Committee

Dean McManus, Committee Chair

Yes Votes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Donna Hartman, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David

CULTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Scott Colbert

No report.

AGENDA ITEM #7

NEW BUSINESS (Comments from Citizens)

Mr. James Humes reiterated his request to change the session date to Saturday

AGENDA ITEM #8
ADJOURNMENT

The Legislative Session adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Goforth Parker, Secretary Chickasaw Legislature

Prepared by: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary Chickasaw Legislature

Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

General Resolution Number 25-008

Authorization for Chickasaw Nation to Apply for Bureau of Justice Assistance Gang Resistance Education and Training Grant

Project Abstract:

The Chickasaw Nation will use grant funding to deliver educational lessons focused on providing life skills to middle school-aged students to help them avoid engaging in delinquent behavior and violence to solve problems. Costs may include a portion of a law enforcement officer's salary and

benefits, limited travel expense to and from schools and supplies directly related to the program. The program's primary objective is prevention and intended as an immunization against delinquency, youth violence and gang membership.

Presented by: Human Resource Committee

Dean McManus, Committee Chair

Yes Votes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Donna Hartman, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

Visit with Santa

Dillon Palmer, left, and Antonio Noriega enjoy the company of Santa at the "Christmas Gingerbread House Fun Day" Chickasaw language club meeting on Saturday, December 15.

2006-2007 Tribal Legislature

Following is a list of the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislators including their address and phone numbers. If you have any questions or need any information, please contact the legislator in your area.

Pontotoc District Seat #	Pickens District Seat #	Tishomingo District Seat #
1. Holly Easterling 105 Thompson Drive Ada, OK 74820 (580) 399-4002 holly.easterling@chickasaw.net	1. David Woerz P.O. Box 669 Ardmore, OK 73402 (580) 504-0160	1. D. Scott Colbert P.O. Box 773 Sulphur, OK 73086 (580) 622-3960
2. Judy Parker P.O. Box 2628 Ada, OK 74820 (580) 332-3840	2. Donna Hartman HC 66, Box 122 Overbrook, OK 73448 (580) 226-4385	2. Tim Colbert P.O. Box 773 Sulphur, OK 73086 (580) 993-2818
3. Katie Case 14368 County Road 3597 Ada, OK 74820 (580) 421-9390	3. Linda Briggs 400 NW 4th Marietta, OK 73448 (580) 276-3493	3. Steven Woods Route 1, Box 430A Sulphur, OK 73086 (580) 622-3523
4. Dean McManus 5980 CR 3430 Ada, OK 74820 (580) 759-3407	4. Wanda Blackwood Scott Route 1, Box 42 Elmore City, OK 73433 (580) 788-4730 scottides@telepath.com	Panola District Seat #
5. Mary Jo Green 2000 E. 14th Place Ada, OK 74820 (580) 332-2394		1. Beth Alexander Box 246 Achille, OK 74720 (580) 283-3409 bethalexander22@hotmail.com

SMITH & SMITH

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Michael Colbert Smith

Barbara Anne Smith

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Chickasaw Citizens

(405) 447-2224
(405) 250-6202
Fax (405) 447-4577

2007 -Been Good! 2008 -Make Great!

Chickasaw diplomatic presence important in Washington

By Charles Blackwell
Chickasaw Ambassador to the United States

2007 has been another good and rewarding year for the Chickasaw Nation in Washington, D.C. As the only American Indian nation with a true diplomatic presence permanently stationed in Washington, we have set a true standard in sovereign expression for tribes all across America. We do our own substantive thinking and government relations strategic planning; unlike so many others we do not rely on lawyers and lobbyists to do these things for us. Governor Anoatubby's appreciation for our status as a domestic sovereign nation and his leadership inspires good

teamwork and dedication which produces a steadfast and strong trustworthy Chickasaw voice at the White House, with the Congress, and in the federal agencies.

We enjoy excellent communicative and supportive relationships with our Congressmen Tom Cole and Dan Boren. We are pleased and proud of each of their Chickasaw roots and heritage as are they.

We interact on a regular basis with them and their excellent staff members.

We're also grateful for the thoughtful consultation and advice we get from Chairman Rahall and his staff of the House Natural Resources

Committee and from Chairman Dorgan and the staff of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

We maintain a diplomatic working relationship with the other ambassadors and the government relations staff from the Mohegan Tribe, the Navajo Nation, the Cherokee Nation, the Oneida of New

proud to assist and advise Bill Lance as he worked so successfully to garner the support and cooperation of the Indian Health Service and Congress for our new hospital. Equally sweet, is launching the sale of our Bedre' Chocolates from the patron snack carts at the Kennedy Center before and during the intermissions of every performance at this internationally famous center for the performing arts. Every bag sold has our promotional information sticker on it. For 2008, Bedre'

director, Niclas Carlsson, has his sights on sales at the National Museum of the American Indian and with federal agencies such

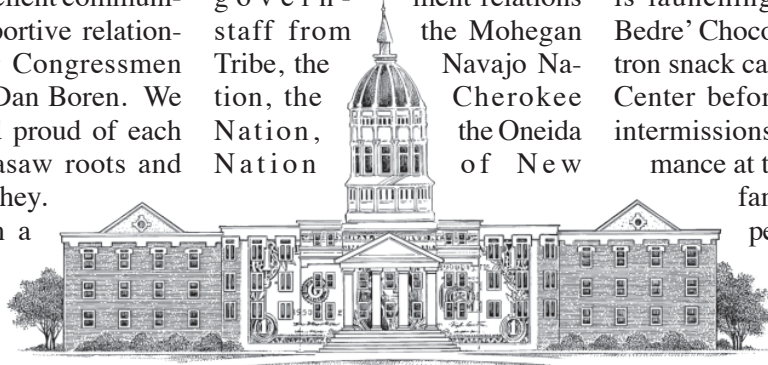
as the Department of Defense. Again, we are eager to assist in every way we may. A taste of Chickasaw sweet can open many eyes and many doors!

Our Chickasaw diplomatic presence in Washington is strong and steadily working to produce progressive results. As your ambassador, my staff and I renew our pride in and dedication to the Governor, the Legislature, and, indeed, to our Chickasaw People. The Chickasaw Nation village is the best!

Strength, love, and good health in 2008!

Charles W. Blackwell, Ambassador to the United States of America

Rusty D. Pickens, Administrative Aide



York, and the Pequot Nation. Each of them has a direct tribal presence in Washington.

2007 Highlights! We were

Tribal operations shows net assets jump to \$617 million

FINANCIAL REPORT

The tribal government caption includes the tribe's general fund and the tribe's BIA trust funds. The Chickasaw Businesses include all of the businesses and operations of the Chickasaw Enterprises. Not included in the financial statements are federally or state funded programs and/or grants and the financial statements of Bank 2 and Chickasaw Industries, Inc.

The growing needs of the businesses are taken into account when determining the transfers from the businesses to the general fund. It is vital to the long range mission of the Chickasaw Nation that the businesses continue to grow and diversify.

Revenues of the tribal operation, other than the transfer from businesses, include motor fuel settlement funds and investment income. Chickasaw Businesses revenues include gaming revenues net of prizes, sales revenue at convenience, travel plazas and tobacco stores, rent and investment income.

Tribal expenditures are classified by function. General government includes the maintenance and operations of tribal property, Chickasaw Times and governor's and Lt. governor's offices. Expen-

diture for education includes education scholarship as well as the tribe's division of education. Health expenditures include senior citizens sites, eye glasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, wellness center, community health clinics, catastrophic medical assistance and other similar programs not covered by federal programs or grants.

The businesses' expenditures are classified as to expenses associated with gaming operation of the tribe and the other businesses of the tribe.

Executive Summary of the Financial Statements of the period ending November 30, 2007

Tribal Government

Revenues and transfers from the businesses for operations and fixed assets totaled \$14.5 million year-to-date. Expenditures were \$4.1 million for the month and \$8.1 million year-to-date. There has been a total, beginning in fiscal year 2004, of \$91.0 million transferred from the businesses that were reserved for capital projects.

Chickasaw Businesses

Revenue net of gaming prizes for November totaled \$55 million and \$111 million year-to-date. Net income before the transfers to the Tribal Government was \$15 million for the month and \$31 year-to-date. After transfers to the Tribal

Government for capital projects and tribal program operations the net income was \$6.9 million year-to-date. The net income includes all revenue, including amounts reserved for business growth and expansion.

Statement of Net Assets

At November 30, 2007, the tribal government funds had \$82

Chickasaw Nation Tribal Operations Statement of Revenues and Expenditures For the Two Months Ended November 30, 2007

Revenues

Transfers from businesses to tribal government
Total funds available

Expenditures

General government
Legislature
Judiciary
Education
Heritage Preservation
Health
Youth and Family Services
Nutrition Programs
Regulatory
Assistance Programs
Transfer to Loan Program
Gaming expense
Other businesses' expense
Total expenditures
Increase in net assets
Beginning net assets
Ending net assets

million in cash and investments. Of this amount, \$11.8 million is in the BIA Trust funds. This total does not include any federal program funds.

The businesses had \$186 million in cash and investments which is reserved for accounts payable and business operations.

As of November 30, 2007,

tribe operations, excluding federal program funding, had assets totaling \$802 million with \$185 million in payables resulting in net assets of \$617 million compared to \$604 million at the end of fiscal year 2007 or an increase of \$13 million from September 30, 2007, the end of fiscal year 2007.

	Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Revenues			
\$ 1,588,716		111,426,999	113,015,715
14,550,928		(14,550,928)	-
16,139,644		96,876,071	113,015,715
Expenditures			
1,403,033			1,403,033
250,838			250,838
166,260			166,260
980,210			980,210
556,991			556,991
1,054,226			1,054,226
1,649,310			1,649,310
450,357			450,357
775,195			775,195
854,934			854,934
-			-
62,330,984			62,330,984
27,550,529			27,550,529
8,141,356		89,881,513	98,022,869
7,998,288		6,994,557	14,992,846
245,719,670		356,307,181	602,026,851
\$ 253,717,958		363,301,738	617,019,697

Chickasaw Nation Tribal Operations Statement of Net Assets November 30, 2007

	Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
\$ 82,082,815		186,242,557	268,325,372
992,160		26,010,073	27,002,233
		4,731,220	4,731,220
		8,719,732	8,719,732
		21,328,916	21,328,916
171,533,371		300,834,084	472,367,455
(890,388)		(184,564,844)	(185,455,232)
\$ 253,717,958		363,301,738	617,019,697

Traditional peacemaking gathering proponents among tribes



Cheri Bellefeuille-Gordon
Supreme Court Justice

Greetings on behalf of the Chickasaw Nation Judicial Branch. Let me begin by saying that I look forward to serving you as Chief Justice as the holiday season and 2008 are upon us. As you may know, Justice Smith's term as chief justice ended in October and we thank her for her dedicated service to the Chickasaw Nation Judicial Branch and to our citizens.

The autumn months have flown by during the holiday season. We hope you are enjoying this time when families and friends can come together and reflect on their memories from the past year and look forward to the upcoming year.

It's been an active time recently with the Chickasaw Festival and Annual Meeting in addition to the first National Gathering on Indigenous Peacemaking conference. The three-day event was held in Oklahoma City on October 22-24, 2007. Thirty tribes from 20 states made the journey and we so enjoyed hosting you all. We are touched that tribes from as far away as Alaska and Hawaii attended and look forward to the outcomes from this historic gathering.

We thank Governor Anotubby, the Chickasaw Nation, Native American Rights Fund (NARF) and our many partners for making this all happen. In Indian Country, the notion of peaceful, safe and healthy communities is not new. There is a strong desire to return to the indigenous philosophy of justice and we're looking forward to working with the new friendships established.

The Peacemaking Court has seven peacemakers available to assist in dispute resolutions.



Chickasaw Supreme Court Justice Barbara Smith joins the Chickasaw Dance Troupe and other Peacemaking Gathering participants in a friendship dance to begin the conference.

If you would like additional information on the traditional methods embraced by the Peacemaking Court, contact Jason Burwell, Judicial Clerk/Peacemaking Coordinator at (580) 235-0281 or (800) 479-1455 for assistance.

On October 14, 15 & 16, Justice Mark Colbert and I attended the National American Indian Court Judges Association An-

nual Conference in Philadelphia, Mississippi. We enjoyed our time and the hospitality of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

We cannot forget our little Head Start trick-or-treaters. We set up a booth at the Chickasaw Nation gym for all the children for Halloween. We passed out candies and saw a lot of spooks! The children were great.

District Court offers two weekly dockets, court advocate help

The staff at the District Court is available to you during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Court Clerk, Wayne Joplin, and Deputy Court Clerk Tamara Dresser can set up an appointment with a court advocate if necessary. Currently, The District Court hears two dockets per week on Tuesday and Thursday. If you need assistance, please call the District Court at (580) 235-0279 or (800) 479-1459.

To date, the District Court has heard 726 cases for 2007. In addition, 317 new cases have been filed and our court advocates have assisted 983 clients with their legal issues. The Court has

also conducted two jury trials.

If you are in the Purcell area, we have our court advocate, David Ponder, available to citizens each Wednesday by appointment. To schedule an appointment, please call the District Court office at (580) 235-0281 or (800) 479-1459. He is located at the Purcell Regional Office on 1603 S. Green Avenue.

As we reflect on 2007, we are extremely pleased with the number of citizens who have used the District Court for their legal matters. We look forward to the upcoming year and appreciate the citizens and all Native Americans that have helped us have a successful year.



Chickasaw Supreme Court Justice Barbara Smith leads a panel discussion on the Chickasaw Nation peacemaking program during the Peacemaking Conference.



Chickasaw Supreme Court chief justice Cheri Bellefeuille-Gordon prepares to drop candy in the bag of an anxious trick-or-treater.

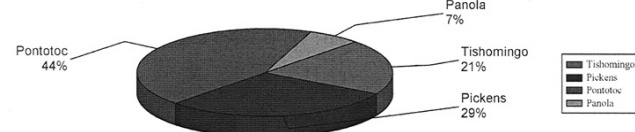
Chickasaw Bar Association News

In appreciation of our Chickasaw Bar members, we recently hosted the Chickasaw Bar Association Legal Seminar on November 30, 2007 at the Riverwind Casino in Norman. Attorneys, Indian Gaming Man-

agement personnel, Tribal Gaming Commissions and Game Vendors were treated to a buffet luncheon in addition to the informative legal seminar. Attorneys received 6.5 CLE credits for attending.

Count of Voters by District

Tishomingo	4,597	Pontotoc	9,694
Pickens	6,499	Panola	1,476
		Total	22,266



Herrington Scholarship recipient directs skills to humanitarian project

Chickasaw engineer helps give girl independence



Chickasaw citizen Chris Carpenter, a Tulsa University electrical engineering graduate student, helped design and construct a new automated wheel chair for Abigail Laipple, an eight-year-old who suffers from cerebral palsy.

A two-year project culminated with an eight-year-old girl gaining a new level of independence and an engineering student gaining a new perspective on his career.

Chickasaw engineering graduate student Chris Carpenter is part of a team of engineers, professors and students at Tulsa University who collaborated with a therapist to create a wheelchair for Abigail Laipple, a quadriplegic girl unable to walk or talk.

Abigail is a Tulsa girl who suffers from cerebral palsy. Her short life has been full of challenges. She has always been carried, pushed or pulled by her parents or caregivers.

"This chair is going to open up a whole new world for her," said Meg Laipple, Abigail's mother. "It's going to change everything."

Mrs. Laipple said the new wheelchair, which was provided to the family through Tulsa University alumni and corpo-

He also developed a new friend in Abigail and her family.

"It's a totally awesome project," Mrs. Laipple said.

The chair can be maneuvered by Abigail pushing a button with the sides of her forehead. The chair includes sensors that will stop it if she encounters an obstacle, such as a curb or staircase. A caregiver can also use a remote control to override her commands. A laptop computer built into the wheelchair will speak for Abigail. All she has to do is push the buttons and a prerecorded message will tell her parents and care givers "I'm hungry" or "I'm tired." The team hopes that once Abigail becomes more adept at using the chair and controls, she will be able to expand her vocabulary, and have conversations.

Abigail's therapist, Anne McCoy, approached the TU Engineering Department about the little girl's needs about two years ago.

"I wanted to know, 'how can we help her move?'" she said, explaining the inspiration for the project was a "hot pink Barbie car."

The group of eight senior engineering students set out with a vision - for Abigail to be able to open and close doors on her own and maneuver the wheelchair independently. They also wanted her to be able to communicate.

The group of seniors designed and built the vehicle, and gave it to Abigail in January 2006.

But, it turns out, all of the new features overwhelmed the little girl.

"So we tweaked it," said Carpenter. "We had more interaction with Abigail this time around."

By meeting weekly with Abi-

gail and her therapist, the engineering team discovered her limitations and what features worked for her.

"It worked better this second time around," Carpenter said.

After hundreds of hours working on the chair, it was presented to Abigail November 29, 2007.

Carpenter was a recipient of the Chickasaw Foundation's John Bennett Herrington Scholarship while an undergraduate at TU. He said the tribe's support has made it possible for him to obtain the highly-specialized knowledge and training, and he is now able to utilize those skills to help someone in need.

"It has just been unbelievable what the Chickasaw Nation has done," he said.

The Tribe, he said, had also helped him with the cost of earning his graduate degree.

In 2006, Carpenter earned his electrical engineering degree and began a career with PSO

(Public Service Company of Oklahoma) as a project design engineer. He also began working on his graduate degree and continued to contribute to the wheelchair project. Two other graduate students, Joshua Buck and Kyle Magrini, completed the design team.

A 2002 graduate of Ada (OK) High School, Carpenter grew up in Ada, and was always surrounded by tribal activities.

"The Chickasaw Nation has been a big part of my life and education," he said. "I have been so blessed by the Chickasaw Nation. The John Herrington Scholarship was a great help in allowing me to obtain my education."

"I definitely want to give back to the Chickasaw Nation."

Carpenter's parents are Don and Dex Carpenter, of Ada.

Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

Visit Carl Albert gift shop today!

Visit the Carl Albert Hospital Volunteers gift shop. All proceeds are used to purchase items for the hospital that will benefit employees and patients. The jewelry and crafts are made by Native Americans. Flutes, drums, Pendleton bags, blankets, beaded caps, Choctaw hymnals, CDs, and Bedre candy are a few of the items available.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Affordable Housing

Chickasaw Nation Division of Housing & Tribal Development

The Chickasaw Nation Division of Housing & Tribal Development has available housing in the following areas.

Ardmore (age 55+) and Marietta

The **Ardmore High-rise** (age 55+) apartments include central heat & air, range, and refrigerator in each apartment. A convenient laundry room is available on every floor. An on site manager, maintenance person and security at night are provided. All utilities are paid.

The **Marietta** apartments offer central heat, washer/dryer hookups, range and refrigerator. Water is paid.

Monthly rent is income based for all apartments. Security deposits range from \$50 to \$100.

For applications and additional information contact Ardmore High Rise Office at 580-226-4590 or Ardmore Office at 580-226-2095.

Davis, Byng, and Marie Bailey (Marie Bailey in Ada, Okla., for ages 55+)

Central heat & air, carpeting, range, refrigerator, and washer/dryer hookups are offered. The Marie Bailey apartments provide all the above including washer and dryer.

Monthly rent is income based. Security deposits range from \$50 to \$160.

Water is paid at Davis and Byng.

For applications and additional information contact the Ada Office at 580-421-8800.



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Chickasaw Citizen

Chickasaw teacher honored



Marsha Ernst

St. Louis, MO - Marsha Caudle Ernst of Lebanon, Illinois recently received the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award.

Over 100 St. Louis-area educators were recognized at the ceremony, which was November 18 at the Ritz-Carlton in Clayton, Missouri.

Mrs. Ernst, originally from

Garland, Texas, graduated from South Garland High School. Upon graduation, she earned a bachelor's degree from East Texas State University and a master's of education degree from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

Mrs. Ernst has been employed at High Mount School in Swansea, Illinois for 26 years. Many of those years were teaching third grade with the remainder working with the remedial reading classes.

Mrs. Ernst is the daughter of Jerome Ervin Caudle, of Holly Lake Ranch, Texas. She is the granddaughter of the late Alice Quincy Caudle, Chickasaw/Choctaw original enrollee, and great-granddaughter of original enrollee the late Herbert M. Quincy.

Torres, Clagg exchange vows in Texas

Maria Alxcis Torres and Randall Justin Clagg exchanged wedding vows October 27, 2007 in Irving, Texas.

The bride is the daughter of Rafael Torres and Karen Torres. Her grandparents are Grandpa and Maria Torres, and Bob and Ann Harris.

The bridegroom is the son of Aaron Maurice Clagg and Paula Kay Carrion. His grandparents are Virgil Walker and the late Sarah Jane Walker, and Don Clagg and the late Glenna Clagg.



Mr. and Mrs. Justin Clagg

Births



Cooper McKinzie

Dayton Michael McKinzie is proud to announce the birth of his little brother, **Cooper Axle McKinzie**. He was born Sept. 10, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. at Norman (OK) Regional Hospital to Brandon and Marie McKinzie, of Wynnewood, Okla.. He weighed 8 pounds, 6 oz., and measured 20.5 inches at birth.

Maternal grandparents are Mike Daves and Debbie Towler, of Wynnewood. Great-grandparents are Marie Towler and Gladys Daves, also of Wynnewood.

Paternal grandparents are Mike and the late Susan McKinzie, of Pauls Valley, Okla. Great-grandparents are Margaret and the late Everett McKinzie of Pauls Valley, and Jessie and Iva Lou Reeves, of Maysville, Okla.

Cooper was welcomed home by aunts, uncles, and cousins, Patrick and Kayla Reynolds and their children Kyle and Kerstyn, of Pauls Valley; Regina and Chris Cobb and their children Chloe and C.J., of Elkhart, Indiana; and Melissa and Trent Saunders, of Sulphur, Okla.



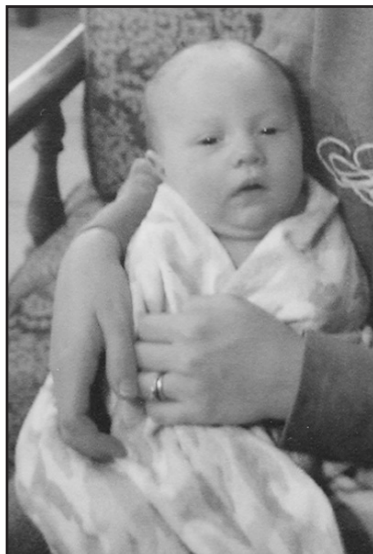
Caden Frost

Matt and Kassie Frost announce the birth of their son, **Caden Don**.

Caden was born October 1, 2007 in Ada, Okla. He weighed 8 lbs and measured 19 1/2 inches at birth.

His paternal grandparents are Joyce Hudson and Guy and Gloria Beaver. His maternal grandparents are Johnny and Kathy Pettitt.

He is the great-grandson James and the late Ann Pettitt, of Sulphur, Okla., and Roy and Judy Cunningtubby, of Mustang, Okla.



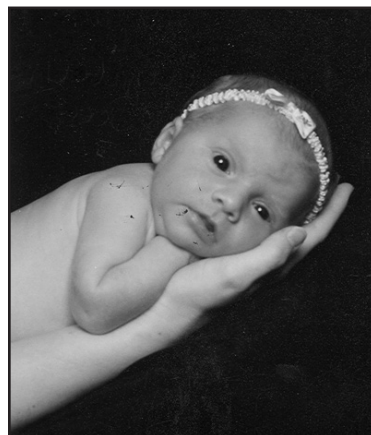
Jacob Wolff

Staff Sgt. Robert Powell Wolff and Courtney Wolff announce the birth of their son, **Jacob Allen Wolff**. Jacob was born Oct. 17, 2007. He weighed 8 lbs., 4 oz., and measured 21 1/2 inches at birth.

He is the grandson of James and Rhonda Prince of Burkburnett, Texas, and Marty and Gail Wolff, of Watagua, Texas.

He is the great-grandson of Linda Prince, Lee Wolff and Roy and Linda Sills, all of Fort Worth, Texas, and Preston and Wanda Powell of North Richland, Texas.

Robert Wolff, Gail Wolff and Preston Powell are direct descendants of original enrollee Charly Sheco.



Rylee Wolff

Staff Sgt. Robert Powell Wolff and Courtney Wolff announce the birth of their daughter, **Rylee Elizabeth Wolff**. Rylee was born Feb. 21, 2006. She weighed 7 lbs., 6 oz., and measured 20 1/2 inches at birth. This announcement is late due to deployment.

Rylee is the granddaughter of James and Rhonda Prince, of Burkburnett, Texas, and Marty and Gail Wolff, of Watagua, Texas.

She is the great-granddaughter of Linda Prince, Lee Wolff and Roy and Linda Sills, all of Fort Worth, Texas, and Preston and Wanda Powell of North Richland, Texas.

Robert Wolff, Gail Wolff and Preston Powell are direct descendants of original enrollee Charly Sheco.



Ryann McMillan

Jon Trace and Amber Annette McMillan announce the birth of their daughter, **Ryann Page McMillan**.

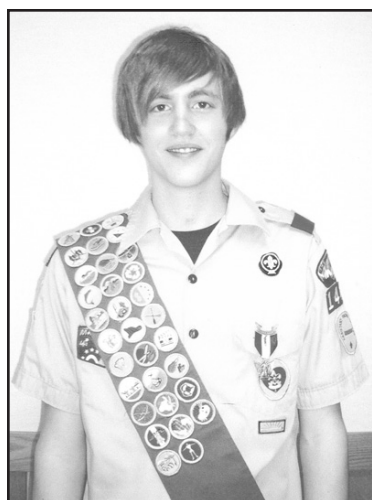
Ryann weighed 7 lbs., 11 oz., and measured 19 1/2 inches at birth.

Ryann's grandparents are Larry Gale and Betty Lou McMillan of East Texas, Marty and Gail Wolff of Watagua, Texas. Great-grandparents are Mary Davis of East Texas, Lee Wolff of Fort Worth, Texas and Preston and Wanda Powell of North Richland, Texas.

Amber McMillan, Gail Wolff and Preston Powell are direct descendants of original enrollee Charly Sheco.



Ohio Chickasaw earns Eagle Scout



Andy Brogan

Andy Brogan 16, of New Knoxville, Ohio, has recently been awarded the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank awarded to youth in Boy Scouts.

Andy is the son of Andy and Tawnya' (Hayes) Brogan, of New Knoxville. He is the grandson of Stephen and Mary

(Baber) Hayes, of Lindsey, Okla., and the great-grandson of Ruby (Colley) Pogue, an original Chickasaw enrollee.

Andy started his journey in Scouts as a Tiger Cub in first grade. It was his goal to become an Eagle Scout from the beginning. During his Scouting career he spent countless hours volunteering, many nights camping and even worked on staff at his favorite camping spot, Camp Lakota in Defiance, Ohio.

For his Eagle Scout project, Andy designed and planned a flagpole with landscaping around it at his high school. With the help of local businesses all materials were donated, and physical assistance was provided by Andy, his fellow Scouts, Scout leaders, business owners and his family.

He contacted his State Congressman, Mike Oxley, and re-

quested and received a flag that was flown over the United States Capitol on the 4th of July 2006, for his Eagle Scout project.

As a member of Troop 1444, Andy has served in many positions and currently serves as assistant patrol leader. Andy is also a member of the Order of the Arrow.

"I have made lots of friends along the way and learned things that I will carry with me the rest of my life," Andy said.

He thanked his adult leaders, Scoutmasters and fellow Scouts for their leadership and guidance in Scouting and his parents for their daily encouragement and support. He also thanked his grandparents, Steve and Mary Hayes, for coming to his Eagle Scout Court of Honor from Lindsay, Okla.

Andy's Court of Honor was November 26, 2007.

Chickasaw visit



Thomas Keel, left, and Frank Johnson, Jr., recently visited Oklahoma State Rep. Lisa Johnson-Billy. They discussed various issues impacting tribal businesses in Oklahoma.

Shackleford, Williams exchange vows



Mr. and Mrs. Christian Williams

Tamra Shackleford, of Noble, Okla., and Pvt. Christian E. Williams, USMC, Stonewall, Okla.

exchanged wedding vows December 23, 2007, at the Chickasaw Nation Community Center,

Ada. Randy Wade officiated the 3 p.m. ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Randy and Carla Shackleford, of Noble. She is the granddaughter of Everett and Octavia Shackleford, of Noble and Porter and Sue McDaniel, of Fox, Okla. A 2007 graduate of Purcell High School, the bride is attending East Central University majoring in Business and Communications and is employed with Chickasaw Nation Gaming Commission.

The groom is the son of Marilyn Coltz, of Stonewall, and Quintin Williams, of Ada. He is the grandson of Floyd and Elizabeth Williams, Ada, and the late Larry and Nancy Coltz, of Ada. A 2007 graduate of Ada High School, an October 5, 2007 graduate of U.S. Marine Corps boot camp, a November 20, 2007 graduate of U.S. Marine Combat Training, he is currently attending aviation training in Pensacola, Florida.

Christian Williams worked at the Chickasaw Nation Wellness Center in Ada before leaving for California and boot camp. Tamra Shackleford is an active member of the Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe. Christian and Tamra are both proud citizens of the Chickasaw Nation Tribe.

Customer Service Survey on the web

Chickasaw citizens who complete a new tribal customer service survey will have the opportunity to win \$100.

Chickasaws can access the Customer Service Survey by going to the tribal website at www.chickasaw.net. The survey seeks input from citizens regarding

tribal programs, services and customer service.

Once you have completed the survey, you can enter the \$100 giveaway. The \$100 will be given away each quarter. Winners will be announced in *the Chickasaw Times*.

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von Tungeln reunion



Great-grandchildren of Chickasaw Charline Penner von Tungeln (born in Mill Creek, Oklahoma in 1914) gathered in Oklahoma over Thanksgiving weekend to attend the wedding of Amy von Tungeln and Greg Gantt. The bride, Amy, is the granddaughter of Mrs. von Tungeln. Pictured in back row from left, Ryan Schwab, Texas, Mark Schwab, Texas, David Schwab, Texas, Justin Havern, Tennessee. Front row from left, Caleb Clancy, Kansas, Logan Havern, Tennessee, Derek Havern, Oklahoma, Blake Havern, Tennessee, Olivia Clancy, Kansas, Dominick Havern, Oklahoma, Kendall Havern, Oklahoma. Not pictured, Hunter von Tungeln, Hawaii, and Caden Schwab, Colorado.

Citizenship award winner



Lauren Ethridge

Lauren Ethridge, 6, a kindergarten student at Indian Meridian Elementary School in Choctaw, Okla., received a Citizenship Award in October. One student is chosen each month from each class. The award is given for exhibiting good life principles.

Lauren is the daughter of Gary and Lori Ethridge and the granddaughter of Charles and Rose Blankenship, of Fittstown, Okla.

'Terrific Kid' recipient



Cedon Harazda

Cedon Harazda, five-year-old son of Chris and Rachael Harazda, was recently awarded the Kiwanis TERRIFIC Kids designation at Sulphur Elementary School, Sulphur, Okla. He is a student in Rebakah Ross' kindergarten class.

"TERRIFIC" stands for the characteristics thoughtful, enthusiastic, respectful, responsible, inclusive, friendly, inquisitive and capable.

Cedon won the award for being an enthusiastic learner.

It's that time of year again!

To request a copy of the 2008 Programs and Services Guide, please call (580) 310-6451. The 2008 guides will be available soon.

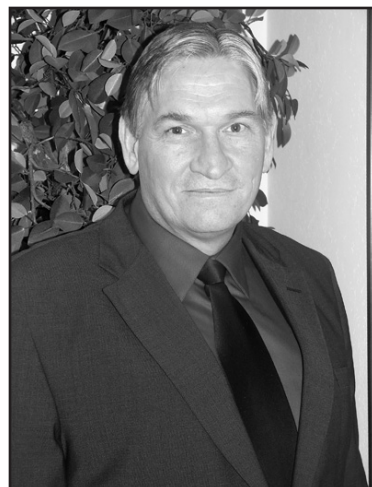
NATIVE

In recent history
It was dubbed "I.T."
But it's always been
Oklahoma to me
I'm here like so many
Because of my kin
Having to walk further
And further again
Out of Mississippi
Cross a fair stretch of land
Given Oklahoma
With several other bands
This is where you live
And this is where you stay
Knowing well and certain

They'd take it back some-
day
Now ranchers and farmers
Oilmen and all
Come to Oklahoma
Where the prairies are tall
Come outlaws and sooners
It ain't too late
Aside with the redman
We'll make a state
We've kept our work our
pride
And grit through it all
I'm a Native Oklahoman
I'm a Chickasaw

Submitted by: Joe F. Sperry Jr.

Choate appointed media relations director



Tony Choate

Tony Choate has recently been named tribal director of media relations.

Mr. Choate has worked for the Chickasaw Nation for more than eight years.

In his new position, Mr. Choate will supervise a staff responsible for keeping Chickasaw people and the general public informed about Chickasaw Nation programs, services and

accomplishments.

"It is a tremendous privilege to witness the incredible progress of the Chickasaw Nation and report on history in the making," he said.

The media relations department is located within the tribal Division of Communications.

Other departments within the Division include multimedia, special events, public affairs, digital design and development and the Chickasaw Times.

Mr. Choate earned his bach-

elor's degree in Legal Studies from East Central University in 1992. He received a master's degree in Political Science from Purdue University in 1994.

In his free time, Mr. Choate likes to spend time with his family. He lives in Dickson, Okla., with his wife, Stephanie. They have two daughters, Alexis and Alicia, and two grandchildren, Blaine and Mia.

Contributed by Carrie Bradshaw, tribal media relations.



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Chickasaw student selected for D.C. leadership program



Joshua Tingle

Joshua Tingle, a sixth grader at Sulphur (OK) Intermediate School, has been nominated to attend a national leadership conference in Washington, D.C., this spring. Joshua, a Chickasaw citizen, was nominated by his reading teacher, Kerri Cole, to represent his school and the state of Oklahoma at the Junior National

Young Leaders Conference. The conference is set March 1-6, 2008. He will be the first student from Sulphur to attend this conference, and is one of 250 middle school students across the United States nominated to attend. Mrs. Cole selected Joshua based on his strong character. "Joshua is an outstanding student," she said. "He is intelligent, responsible, and hard-working. He is a great kid and has a big heart for others."

Joshua maintains a 3.8 grade point average. He has consistently appeared on the Governor's, Superintendent's and Principal's Honor Rolls every nine weeks since the second grade.

"This conference will give Joshua an opportunity for leadership development, amazing educational experiences and personal growth," Mrs. Cole said. "By attending the conference, Joshua will explore his existing leadership style and

develop skills that he will use in and out of the classroom. This will be a great way for Joshua to take on new leadership roles, and also inspire other students to be leaders as well."

During the six-day program, the young scholars will take part in educational activities and presentations, examine notable U.S. leaders and historic figures, and study the impact of leadership throughout critical periods of American history. The group is expected to meet with elected officials and key Congressional staff members on Capitol Hill. "The aim of the Junior National Young Leaders Conference is to inspire students to recognize their own leadership skills, measure their skills against those of current and former leaders and return home with new-found confidence in their ability to exercise positive influence within their communities," said Mike Lasday, Congressional Youth

Leadership Council executive director.

When asked about his upcoming trip, Joshua said he was excited and he is eagerly anticipating his first trip to the Nation's capitol. The conference is not limited to the Washington, D.C. area. The group of sixth- and seventh-graders will also travel to historic sites including Harpers Ferry, W.V., and Philadelphia. The overnight trip to the interactive Maryland Science Center is on the top of Joshua's list. "I'm also looking forward to seeing the memorials," he said. Joshua participates in many tribal activities that enhance his leadership skills, including Chickasaw Nation Aviation and Space Academy (CNASA), basketball camp and Camp Survivor. "Leadership means you have the skills to make needed changes," he said. Joshua hopes to become in-

involved with the youth leadership council in the future. He is still undecided on his future career path. For now, he stays busy with 4-H, piano lessons and playing basketball.

Joshua is the son of Gary and Michele Tingle, and the grandson of Charles and Wanda Tingle and Terry and Terry Woodell, all of Sulphur. His maternal great-grandmother is Margaret Moore, Davis, Okla., and he is the great-great grandson is Tarie Imotichey.

Joshua's participation in the conference will depend on his raising \$3,500 in sponsorship funds. Those interested in contributing to this fund can call (580) 622-3898. Joshua appreciates everyone who is willing to support him so he may experience this opportunity.

Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

Johnson is 'Student of the Year'



Katie Johnson

A Chickasaw college student was named the Oklahoma Council of Indian Education's "Student of the Year" at the annual OCIE Annual Awards Banquet. The banquet took place on Tuesday, Dec. 4th in Midwest City, Okla.

Katie Johnson, now a junior at the University of Oklahoma, a 2005 Vanoss High School graduate, was the class Valedictorian and President. In high school,

Miss Johnson was actively involved in the Chickasaw Nation and served as the secretary of the Chickasaw Nation Pontotoc Youth Council.

Planning on a Spring 2010 graduation, Miss Johnson declared Nuclear Medicine as her major. Katie takes an average of 17 credit hours per semester, but she still makes time to be involved in OU's President's Leadership Class and is a Sooner Scout.

"Academics are a top priority for her," said Sharon Phillips, former teacher of Miss Johnson's, "and her eagerness to learn is overwhelming in today's society."

Miss Johnson is the daughter of Charles Clark of Ada, and Angie Flowers of Vanoss, Okla.

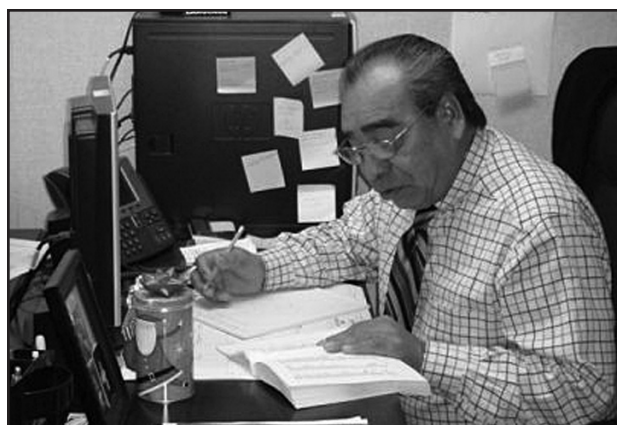
Mr. Smith keeping language alive

One Chickasaw citizen is utilizing his past – a past similar to those of many Chickasaw elders – to keep his own language a prominent part of the culture for upcoming generations of Chickasaw people.

Stanley Smith is the 2007 recipient of the Silver Feather Award for service in preserving Chickasaw language and culture. This Silver Feather is presented annually to an individual who makes preserving the ways of the Chickasaw people a priority, with an emphasis on the Chickasaw language.

"Stanley is a wonderful choice for this award, said Dr. Amanda Cobb-Greetham, administrator of the tribal Division of History, Research and Scholarship.

"He is willing to share and mentor wherever he goes. He does this consistently, whether or not he was employed by the Chickasaw Nation. He has put forth a great amount of effort to see that the Chickasaw language is preserved."



Stanley Smith studies a Chickasaw Dictionary at work. Mr. Smith is a Senior Language Master for the Chickasaw Nation Revitalization Program.

Mr. Smith was raised with the Chickasaw language.

"As a small child, the primary language I heard and spoke was Chickasaw," Mr. Smith said. "That was my all that my grandparents spoke. But looking back, I'm very thankful that they spoke to me in our language. It has helped me to keep speaking fluently after all these years."

Mr. Smith grew up in the Allen, Okla., area, the oldest of 10 children. He recalls the challenges he faced as a student whose primary language was Chickasaw,

"It was hard in school," he said. "English was still new to

me. I would get my 'yes's' and 'no's' mixed up."

Mr. Smith is among a handful of fluent speakers who are striving to preserve the language. He encourages others to share the language with their grandchildren and to keep the tradition going.

"The younger generations don't realize what they are losing when they lose their language," he said. "Without a language, they will be lost."

At 62, Mr. Smith now works harder than ever to revitalize the language. He is employed by the Chickasaw Nation as Senior Language Master of the Chickasaw Language Revitalization Program.

"I truly enjoy this job," he said. "I enjoy the way that it challenges me to keep the language fresh myself while helping the Chickasaw citizens pass it on."

Mr. Smith and his wife, Mary Jane Frazier Smith, have three children and five grandchildren.

Contributed by Carrie Bradshaw, tribal media relations.



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Chickasaw diver overcoming life's obstacles in Olympic quest



Kaylea Arnett

Kaylea Arnett, a 14-year-old Chickasaw diver, keeps sailing toward her Olympic dreams despite facing some rough water along the way.

Kaylea recently won two gold medals, plus a bronze medal, to help the U.S. win the 2007 Pan American Diving Championships in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Shortly after that event, Kaylea received the sad news that the Woodlands Athletic Center, where she currently trains, would close in the fall of 2008.

Terrie Arnett, Kaylea's mother, said the family will "just move to Indianapolis (USA Diving's national training facility)," if a foundation formed to build a new facility is not successful.

If the family makes that move, it will be the second time the Arnetts have pulled up roots since Kaylea began her diving career.

Originally from Newcastle, Okla., Kaylea began her training at the USA Diving Regional Training Center in Oklahoma City.

When the team lost access to the training facility at Oklahoma City Community College in 2005, plans were made to construct a new diving pool in Oklahoma City.

Those plans fell through and the Arnett family moved to the Woodlands, Texas to enable Kaylea to continue pursuing her Olympic dreams.

Olympic gold medalist Laura Wilkinson and Woodlands Dive Team coach Kenny Armstrong recently formed a foundation to construct a new athletic center in the Woodlands.

The pair hopes to raise \$11 million to construct a facility to house the program which currently serves 40 competitive

divers and 60 student divers.

The foundation hopes to lease the current facility for the two years it will take to raise the money and construct the facility.

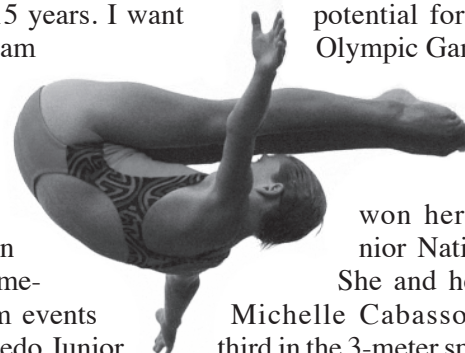
If that doesn't happen, the Arnett family will face the prospect of once again moving to enable Kaylea to pursue her Olympic dreams.

"I can't imagine being the age of Kaylea and Michelle and having my dreams stripped away," Wilkinson said in a *Houston Chronicle* article about the foundation. "I don't want that to happen. I'm going to fight

for them. And I think Kenny's dream and vision is a way to make their dreams happen.

"Kenny has created an atmosphere where we are more than just people who train together. He has helped make my dreams come true for 15 years. I want to make his dream come true."

Kaylea was first selected to participate in the OMP in after winning gold in the 3-meter, 1-meter and platform events at the 2006 Speedo Junior



Nationals in Indianapolis.

USA Diving selected her for the program because the organization believed she had Olympic medal potential. At the time she was selected as part of a younger group believed to have potential for the 2012 Olympic Games.

Earlier this year, Kaylea

won her fifth Junior National title.

She and her partner Michelle Cabassol, placed third in the 3-meter springboard

synchronized competition in the Senior National event.

That finish qualified the team to participate in the Olympic Trials Selection Camp in June 2008 where they will vie for a chance to compete in the 2008 Olympics in China.

More information about the Laura Wilkinson Foundation is available at www.lwfound.org <[file://www.lwfound.org](http://www.lwfound.org)>

Contributed by Tony Choate, tribal media relations.

Chickasaw foster parents creating hope

Lives of promise nurtured through family

Across Oklahoma, approximately 1,600 Native American children face each day without a family to care for them.

The Chickasaw Nation Foster Care and Adoption Program has made it a priority to reduce this number. Operating under the tribal Department of Family Advocacy, the program was developed to provide temporary or permanent care for Native American children placed into tribal or state custody.

"The need is unbelievably great for people who are willing to become foster parents," said Arthur Ellsworth, Foster Care/Adoption Manager. "I don't think people realize how many children are waiting for placement."

Currently, the Chickasaw Nation has more than 100 custody children in relative, foster or adoptive care within the service area, with 49 in tribal custody.

There is a continuous search for applicants who can meet requirements for certification through the tribe. There is also an undeniable amount of challenge and stress associated with foster care that causes reluctance among applicants.

"The most common setback is the fear of becoming attached to the child and then having to give him up," Mr. Ellsworth said. "But sometimes the foster parents have to step back and choose the option that would be best for the child."

It takes a special type of fam-

ily to be willing to meet the challenges that arise in providing temporary or permanent care for custody children.

"These children often come with a lot of emotional baggage that is extremely hard to adjust to," Mr. Ellsworth said. "It can range from drug or alcohol addiction to night terrors."

Many foster parents, however, would say it is all worth it.

Robert and Kathy Rogers, of Shawnee, Okla., have been licensed foster parents for eight years.

"I couldn't imagine not having these kids in my home," Mrs. Rogers said.

The Rogers have four biological children, ranging in ages from 12 to 24. They also have two adopted four year-olds and an 18-month old whose adoption is almost final. They also currently have a foster child in their care.

The two adopted children came to the Rogers as foster children, as did the 18-month old.

"Our biological children are almost all out of the nest," said Mrs. Rogers, "But having these foster children keeps children around the house, which I love."

Mrs. Rogers can completely understand the drawbacks of the foster care program,

"It is hard to let a foster child go after caring for them," she said, "but you just have to realize that there is always another



Two children help their younger foster brother take a few steps at the Chickasaw Nation Foster Care and Adoption Program's Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, Dec. 8.

child who needs your help."

For more information on becoming a foster care or adoption home with the Chickasaw Nation, contact Arthur Ellsworth at (580) 252-4119 or write to the

Chickasaw Nation, Department of Family Advocacy, Foster Care/Adoption Program, P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74821.

Contributed by Carrie Bradshaw, tribal media relations.

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Children's Choir performs classics in Chickasaw, English



Chickasaw Children's Choir members include, front row from left, Shelby Colungo, Raechell Meely, Lauren Burden, Brandy Lane, Maegan Carney, Martina Lane, Raven Carney, Taylor Taliaferro. Second row, Jace Carney, Brandon Battice, Joseph Carney, Allysa Blankenship, Mariah Baptiste, Arianna Lopez, Lori Barrett, Amanda Carney, Courtney Parchcorn. Standing behind the choir is Phillip Berryhill, conductor.

ADA, Okla. - The Chickasaw Children's Choir performed before family and friends at the "Amazing Peace Christmas Concert" on December 8.

Lights and decorations filled the Ada Chickasaw Community Center as the choir filled the room with sounds of Christ-

mas.

The talented children performed Christmas classics including "Silent Night," "Away in a Manger" and "The First Noel" as well as original tunes "Bridge Builders" and "Let the Journey Begin."

The choir also entertained the

crowd with a unique version of Franz Schubert's "Sanctus." The piece was translated into Chickasaw and adapted to fit the music for the performance.

"This song is very well known and has been performed for almost 200 years," said choir conductor Phillip Berryhill. "It came to mind that we may very well have been the first people to sing this song in a Native American language."

The choir sang Chickasaw translations of the traditional Christmas songs as well. Chickasaw fluent speakers JoAnn Ellis and Vera Tims provided the translations.

Choir members Brandon Battice and Courtney Parchcorn joined Chickasaw Living History Players Brandon Blankenship and Kate Duty to recite "Amazing Peace," a Christmas poem written by Dr. Maya Angelou. The moving poem was read by Dr. Angelou at the lighting of the National Christmas Tree at the White House in 2005.

A reception was hosted by the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities for choir members and guests following the performance.

This was the first Christmas concert for the choir. Future concerts are planned.
Contributed by Kerri McDonald,
tribal media relations.



Dr. Maya Angelou's poem "Amazing Peace" was recited by, from left, Kate Duty, Brandon Battice, Courtney Parchcorn and Brandon Blankenship at the Chickasaw Children's Choir Christmas Concert on December 8.



At the Chickasaw Children's Choir Christmas concert, the group performed several Christmas favorites in English and in Chickasaw.

'Sanctus'

Franz Schubert's "Sanctus" is from the Deutsche Messe D872, original text in German. The English translation reads:

Holy, holy, holy, holy is the Lord.
Holy, holy, holy, holy is the Lord.
'Fore the world's foundation, 'fore stars shone on high
Father, Son and Spirit were in Essence One.

The Chickasaw translation and adaptation reads:

Holitto'pa, Chihowat Holitto'pa.
Holitto'pa, Chihowat Holitto'pa.
Yakni Iktobo Kisha Fochick Ikshokisha
Inki, oshi micha shilombishat chaffa

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Chickasaw Citizen

Angel Tree gifts



Sandra Seeley, Director of the Ada Area Office, records returned gifts at the Angel Tree Return & Reception on Dec. 14. More than 400 gifts were collected with this year's effort.



Winter camp creates memories, strengthens bonds

Hayaka Unta joins kids, parents in outdoor experience

An unintended dip into a frigid pond in early December cemented the bond between father and son during a recent tribal camp. William Hickman and his son, William Hickman, Jr., of Sulphur, Okla., were together in their canoe when it capsized on the second day of Hayaka Unta Winter Camp.

The men were two of about 50 Chickasaw students and parents who got a taste of nature and made some lasting memories during the 2007 edition of the camp, November 30 through December 2. Camp Classen, near Davis, Okla., was the venue for the annual event, which is hosted by the Chickasaw Nation Division of Youth and Family Services.

Fortunately, wet boots were the worst thing that happened to the Hickman men. After changing clothes and drying out by the camp fire, the father and son now they have a humorous memory to share.

Besides canoeing, campers and their parent or guardian were able to participate in several outdoor activities. A trail ride over the rough terrain of the Arbuckle Mountains also created some fun memories for the campers.

Seven-year-old Haleih Bond, from Wilson, experienced her first horseback ride during camp.

When asked if she liked it, she nodded her head enthusiastically.

"She's been talking about it since yesterday," said her mother, Angela Bond.

"The rock climbing wall is my favorite," said Justice Lewis. "I made it all the way to the top."

A unique harness swing was also a big hit with campers. The camper is hoisted about 30 feet into the air by his peers and, when the time is right, a rip cord is pulled and the camper swings over the group.

The campers and their adult companions camped in tents during the two-night stay. Campers received a hooded sweatshirt and a backpack full of camping gear to use during the event.

Two teepees were erected by Glen Leming and Eddie East-erling for the event. The men camped with the group and



Father and son, William Hickman and William Hickman, Jr., brace themselves for an icy plunge while canoeing at Winter Hayaka Unta Camp.

offered demonstrations on bow making and dreamcatchers during the camp.

Sunday morning featured a two-mile hike up Warren Mountain and a fireside chat before lunch. Camp

concluded following lunch. For many campers, this year's trip was a return visit and they plan on repeating the experience again next year.

Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.



Dillon Lamb flies through the air on a rope swing at Hayaka Unta.



Second-year camper William Wright saddles up for the trail ride.

After School Art classes set for Ada, Purcell

Attention art students in Ada and Purcell! The Chickasaw Nation Arts in Education After School Art Program (ASAP) wants to give you the opportunity to have fun and let your creativity flow!

Sign up now for a three-week art workshop called "Chickasaw Warrior Masks." You will explore Chickasaw culture while learning new art techniques and Southeastern native designs from certified art instructors.

ASAP is for Chickasaw students in third through 12th grades and open to students in each service area's location.

Classes are conducted from

3:30 to 4:30 p.m., each Friday afternoon. The Ada program will be conducted January 4, 11 and 18 at the Chickasaw Nation Family Life Center. The Purcell program will take place February 1, 8 and 15 at the Chickasaw Nation Purcell Area Office.

If you are a Chickasaw student in third through 12th grade who wants to have fun learning more about your culture, please contact the arts in education department or the division of arts and humanities at (580) 272-5520 or the Purcell Area Office for enrollment forms and information.

Event offers multitude of cultural connections

Chickasaw kids celebrate culture at Youth Heritage Day



Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe members, from left, Jace Carney, Michael Bruner, John Dennis, Brandon Battice, Courtney Bruner, Diamond Dennis, Cheyenne Eades, Raven Carney, Alicia Alexander, Maegan Carney, led by Jay Mule (background). The dancers performed traditional dances for Youth Heritage Day.

DAVIS, Okla. - Several Native American students spent the last day of November celebrating their culture and learning new skills during first-ever Youth Heritage Day. The event was Friday, November 30 in the Arbuckle Mountains at Camp Classen, near Davis, and was co-sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation Department of Education and Youth

and Family Services.

"November is Native American month so we decided to have an event to create more cultural awareness in our students," said Robert Pickens, tribal Johnson-O'Malley (JOM) director.

A total of 45 students, including 38 from Ardmore and seven from Purcell attended the event, as well as several young participants of the tribal martial arts program. The program began with the Chickasaw Princesses performing "The Lord's Prayer," and a welcome from tribal Division of Education administrator Lori Hamilton.

The students were treated to interactive demonstrations and crafts. Outdoor demonstrations were conducted near the camp's picturesque lake and included fireside storytelling, martial arts, a stickball lesson and archery instruction, which was a crowd pleaser.

"My favorite was shooting the bow," said Ardmore ninth grader Amanda Evans.

Matt Simon, a junior at Purcell High School, agreed with Amanda. He enjoyed learning the art of archery and the fun competition of the

stickball game.

The group also learned several new crafts, including making mini-stickball sticks, dream catchers, wrist bands, corn husk dolls and making beaded items.

Chickasaw Dance Troupe member Laura Davis attended the event to perform a cultural dance for the crowd and was able to get involved with the crafts. The Ardmore third grader said she enjoyed beading a new necklace. She attends many youth tribal camps and events, she said, including Camp Survivor, the Back to School Bash and summer camps.

The event ended with a performance by the Dance Troupe, and closing remarks from Deanna Kendall, Department of Youth Services director.

Deana Craighead, a sponsor from Ardmore, said many members of the school's Native American youth group "Dreamcatchers" attended the Friday event in hopes of gleaning ideas to host a similar event for younger children in their city.

Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.



Courtney Bruner, Mariah Baptiste and Amanda Carney, all from Ardmore (OK) City Schools, learn the art of beading at Youth Heritage Day. The girls are members of the Chickasaw Dance Troupe.

Chickasaw composer awarded First Nations - Common Ground grant

M. Cochise Anderson, the grandson of Chickasaw Hall of Fame recipient Catherine Willmond, recently received a First Nations Composers Initiative - Common Ground Grant awarded by the American Composers Forum.

Mr. Anderson, who resides in Minneapolis, has been a Native American cultural arts educator for the past 18 years. He performs tribal songs for flute, rattles and drum, and also composes original pieces that highlight his spoken word performances.

The grant proposal is unique in that it brings together two communities, the Fond Du Lac reservation in northern Minnesota and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, via video and live performances of tribal music and dance as well as language. The elders of both communities will also play a vital role in these residencies.

Mr. Anderson's CD, "The Kemosabe Therapy," an eclectic ensemble of spoken word with contemporary and traditional music, was nominated for an Indian Summer Music Award in 2005. His new live CD, "Okcha-a, Is Alive," is scheduled to be released this holiday season.

Mr. Anderson is also an accomplished actor and playwright and storyteller. He has received a Jerome Fellowship



M. Cochise Anderson

for playwrighting and a Bush Artist Fellowship for performance art and storytelling. His tv and film credits include "The Cosby Show" and "Homicide: Life on The Street", as well as "Daughters of The Dust" and "Bill's Gun Shop".

Mr. Anderson would like to thank his family including Catherine "Granny" Willmond, his auntie Onita Carnes, his cousins Felicia and Brenda Carnes, his cousin Jerrod Tate, and all his relatives out in Marshall County.

The First Nations Composers Initiative project is supported through the Ford Foundation's Indigenous Knowledge, Expressive Culture grant program of the American Composer's Forum. (More info. www.Cochise-okcha-a.com)



Ardmore (OK) High School freshman Amanda Evans prepares to hit the mark during an archery demonstration at Youth Heritage Day.

Discovering new avenues of expression

Ardmore After School Art class produces warrior masks



Amber Lampkin, a student at Plainview (OK) High School, works on the beginning stages of her warrior mask project at the Ardmore After School Art Program.

ARDMORE, Okla. - The Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities once again hosted the After School Art Program (ASAP) in Ardmore. Native American students from the area participated in the program which teaches about Chickasaw culture and history as well as art forms and techniques.

Each student created his own warrior mask inspired by tradition of Chickasaw warriors painting and tattooing their faces to prepare for battle.

Students gathered each Friday afternoon for three weeks to learn about the history of warrior masks and spend time painting, drawing and crafting their pieces.

"This is a great program that gives our students the opportunity to express themselves," said Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby. "They can learn more about our history and culture while having fun with their artwork."

Artists who participated in the program included:

Jace Carney

14-year-old student at Ardmore Middle School

"I think art is important because it teaches patience and creativity."

Justin Carney

12-year-old student at Ardmore Middle School

"Art allows you to be creative and is fun to do."



Ardmore After School Art Program participants Raven Carney and Diamond Dennis select paint for their warrior mask project. Students in elementary through high school took part in the art program.

Raven Carney

10-year-old student at Jefferson Elementary

"I like art because I like drawing and making pretty things."

Joseph Carney

12-year-old student at Plainview Middle School

"I like doing things with my hands like drawing or making things."

Amber Lampkin

14-year-old student at Plainview High School

"I think art is important is because it make the world a better place."

Meagan Carney

8-year-old student at Jefferson Elementary

"I like to draw and color and make things."

Amanda Carney

13-year-old student at Ardmore Middle School

"I like art because it is fun to be creative and create your own art."

Mariah Baptiste

11-year-old student at Ardmore Middle School

"I think art is important because it makes you think."

Trey Baptiste



Jefferson Elementary student Anthony Cass-Reed adds detail to his warrior mask at the Ardmore After School Art Program. Anthony was one of the many students who learned about the history and tradition of warrior face painting during the program.

11-year-old student at Franklin Elementary

"I like art because all the pretty colors make people smile."

Alicia Alexander

10-year-old student at Jefferson Elementary

"I think art is important because what if when you get older your child might want your help drawing something."

Laura Dennis

9-year-old student at Franklin Elementary

"When I do art, it makes people happy."

Alysha Fowler

10-year-old student at Jefferson Elementary

"I get to use my imagination and learn new stuff."

Kira Fowler

13-year-old student at Ardmore Middle School

"I get to express my feelings and get to learn about my culture and heritage."

Anthony Cass-Reed

11-year-old student at Jefferson Elementary

"Art is a great way to express your feelings and thoughts. It can tell you a lot about yourself, and how you see and feel about your culture."

For more information about ASAP or other arts programs, call (580) 272-5520.

Contributed by Kerri McDonald, tribal media relations.

12-year-old student at Ardmore Middle School

"I like art because I like to make things."

Chasity Bruner

14-year-old student at Ardmore Middle School

"I like art because it is fun."

Courtney Bruner

12-year-old student at Ardmore Middle School

"I think art is important because you can express yourself."

Diamond Dennis

Construction under way



Earthwork is performed on the Ada construction site of the new tribal health care facility.

Construction is progressing on the new 370,000 square-foot Chickasaw Nation health care facility in Ada, Okla.

Dirt work began on the site in November. Top soil removal, excavation, density testing and many other tasks have been

performed as the building pad is prepared.

Tree preservation on the site has also been under way. The contractor has been directed in to conserve as many trees as possible on the construction site.

Support offered for those dedicated to care of loved ones

Caregivers recognized at annual appreciation banquet

LaWanna Arnold and Margaret Jones received awards for their involvement in the Chickasaw Nation Caregiver Support Program from division on aging administrator Karen Cook and caregiver coordinator Brenda Hughes. Pictured from left to right are Karen Cook, LaWanna Arnold, Margaret Jones and Brenda Hughes.

DAVIS, Okla. - The Chickasaw Nation Division on Aging recently hosted a Caregiver Appreciation Banquet to celebrate November as National Family Caregiver Month.

The luncheon took place at the Microtel Conference Room in Davis and included a catered meal, entertainment, guest speaker and awards ceremony.

The banquet was a time to honor those who serve as caregivers to elderly, homebound or disabled family members.

Guest speaker Paulette Blankenship, Family Caregiver Support Coordinator for Big Five Community Service, shared words of encouragement and support for the caregivers. Ms. Blankenship, who once was a

caregiver for her own parents, now travels the area to offer guidance and information on services and programs available to caregivers.

Chickasaw Nation Caregiver Coordinator Brenda Hughes and Division on Aging Administrator Karen Cook awarded LaWanna Arnold and Margaret Jones, both of Ada, with appreciation plaques for their loyal involvement in the Chickasaw Nation Caregiver Support Program.

The program provides monthly support meetings where caregivers can network, share resources and learn tips and techniques from caregiver professionals. Through this program, caregivers can qualify for funds to acquire respite care. Respite care allows the caregiver to hire professional care for their loved ones while they run errands, go shopping, attend special events or just take time for themselves.

The caregiver support program meets monthly in areas across the Chickasaw Nation. For more information about the program, contact Brenda Hughes at (580) 795-9790.

Contributed by Kerri McDonald, tribal media relations.



Paulette Blankenship, guest speaker at the Chickasaw Nation's Caregiver Appreciation Banquet, informs the crowd that there are currently more than 50 million caregivers in the United States.

Ten important tips for family caregivers

1. Care giving is a job and respite is your earned right. Reward yourself with respite breaks often.
2. Watch out for signs of depression, and don't delay in getting professional help when you need it.
3. When people offer to help, accept the offer and suggest specific things that they can do.
4. Educate yourself about your loved one's condition and how to communicate effectively with doctors.
5. There's a difference between caring and doing. Be open to technologies and ideas that promote your loved one's independence.
6. Trust your instinct. Most of the time it will lead you in the right direction.
7. Caregivers often do a lot of lifting, pushing and pulling. Be good to your back and your health.
8. Grieve for your losses and then allow yourself to dream new dreams.
9. Seek support from other caregivers and support groups. There is great strength in knowing you are not alone.
10. Stand up for your rights as a caregiver and a citizen.

Source: Paulette Blankenship, Big Five Community Service

OKC Metro Council hears of job opportunities

The Oklahoma City Metro Chickasaw Community Council had a wonderful ham dinner at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2 and monthly meeting at 7 p.m.

We always appreciate the homemade side dishes and desserts.

The room was packed and we had several new attendees. Two of them even won a prize at our give-away! We continue to grow as the word gets out that our community is offering this meeting for all fellow Chickasaws.

In attendance was Lisa Bumpus from Health Services, who reported on the progress of the medical facilities in Ada and the intention of the upcoming Listening Conference in February to hear our input on our experiences with the medical facilities and our recommendations to make them better. Sheryl Goodson, Director of Medical Support Services, was also there to tell us about the Satellite

Clinics. We are closest to the beautiful new Purcell facility and she reported that they are making progress on the long list of people waiting to start a chart at Purcell. They have one full time physician and one part time along with a Physician's Assistant. They were able to see 120 new patients since November. That's very good news. There is also an optometrist on Tuesdays now. Sandi Sanders, Director of Tribal Health Programs reported that the MAPS, eye and dental programs are helping many of us living "out of nation" with medicine etc. and continues to grow.

Our guest speaker was Aegeda Riggins, Chickasaw Nation Industries Recruiter. She was a bundle of energy and gave a very upbeat report on jobs waiting for Chickasaws! The website www.chickasaw.com <<http://www.chickasaw.com>> posts jobs and gives contacts

and instructions on how to apply for them. A percentage of their profits goes to fund the services like the ones we'd just heard about from the medical personnel. We are anxious to hear more from CNI about their growing enterprises and contribution to our services.

We were glad to have Legislators Beth Alexander and Katie Case at our meeting.

Because January 1 is New Year's Day, our next meeting will be the **SECOND** Tuesday in January, **January 8, 2008**. Join us for fellowship and fun!

Remember the OKCMCCC has moved to a new location on the sixth floor of Lakepointe Towers, 4005 Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City. We welcome everyone to attend our meetings and activities.

Contact information: Pam Conard (405) 973-8127

THAT FISH PLACE

ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET

FISH FRIED SHRIMP BOILED SHRIMP BRISKET HUSH PUPPIES POTATO SALAD	OKRA RED BEANS COLE SLAW FRIED POTATOES PEACH COBBLER ICE CREAM	PRICES ADULT \$12.00 SENIORS OVER 55 \$10.00 CHILD 6-12 \$ 6.00 CHILD UNDER 6 FREE
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 4:30 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.
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"COME AND EAT WITH OUR FAMILY FOR THE BEST FISH AROUND!"

Chickasaw Honor Club

Outstanding Achievement students for Fall term

September 2007 Outstanding Achievement Awards

Macy Hilburn

Macy Hilburn is a September 2007 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Athletics.



Macy Hilburn

Macy is a sophomore at Wapanucka (OK) High School. She was nominated by Wapanucka principal Max Rowland. Macy is an active member in basketball, softball, FFA, 4-H and Student Council. She is also a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is active in her church.

"Macy is a student who works hard and takes her education very seriously," said Mr. Rowland. "She displays the utmost respect for her classmates as well as teachers and administration."

Macy was awarded the Golden Gear award through the Gear Up program for having the highest grade point average in her class. She has been on the Principal's and Governor's Honor Rolls for the past three years, and is a member of the Oklahoma Honor Society.

"My goal each year is to make sure I keep my grades up," said Macy. "I also plan on attending college to better my educational future."

Macy is the daughter of Chad and Sally Hilburn, of Wapanucka.

Jessica Stewart



Jessica Stewart

Jessica is an eighth grade student at Roff (OK) Public Schools. She was nominated by Roff librarian and junior high language teacher Alicia Peak. Jessica is an active member of the basketball and softball teams.

"She is very conscientious in the classroom and on the ball field," said Ms. Peak. "She gives her very best going 100 percent all of the time."

Jessica is on the Superinten-

dent's and Governor's Honor Rolls. She was also selected as the September Chickasaw Student of the Month her seventh grade year.

Jessica is the daughter of Mike and Jana Stewart, of Roff.

October 2007 Outstanding Achievement Awards

Caroline Keel

Caroline Keel is an October 2007 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Art.



Caroline Keel

Caroline is in the fourth grade at Coles Ferry Elementary in Lebanon, Tennessee. She was nominated by Coles Ferry Elementary art instructor Becky Burroughs.

"Caroline is a very talented young artist," said Ms. Burroughs. "Her style is very distinct and I feel that she brings her Chickasaw heritage to every piece of artwork."

Caroline enjoys drawing, writing stories, reading and running. Caroline entered the Tennessee Magazine art contest and received second place. She earned the most points in her school in the accelerated reading program. In addition, she was the top third-grade girl in the mile run event last year. Caroline was picked to go to the Spring Olympics and earned first place in the jump rope event.

"I hope to become a veterinarian because I love animals," said Caroline. "I plan to continue getting good grades so I can get scholarships to go to college and veterinary school."

Caroline is the daughter of Frank and Kathie Keel, of Lebanon.

Katie Miller



Katie Miller

Katie Miller is an October 2007 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Citizenship.

Katie is in the seventh grade at Latta (OK) Public Schools. She was nominated by Latta assistant principal Terry Painter.

Katie is the 2007 Latta 4-H Club president.

"She is a very well-rounded young lady with a variety of interests," said Mr. Painter. "I feel that Katie represents our school and the nation very well."

"I love playing sports and spending time with friends and family," said Katie. "In high school I hope to become a cheerleader."

Katie is the daughter of Steve and Carla Miller, of Latta.

Shelby Parnacher

Shelby Parnacher, is an October 2007 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Sports.



Shelby Parnacher

Shelby is in the sixth grade at Latta (OK) Public Schools. She was nominated by Latta Elementary teacher Tammy Collins. Shelby is a member of the Principal's and Governor's Honor Rolls as well as a member of the As and Bs Because I Try (A.B.B.I.T) Club.

"She represents her heritage well by participating in the Miss Chickasaw competition," said Ms. Collins. "Shelby is also a hard worker in the classroom."

Shelby's hobbies include going to church, spending time with family and friends, and playing softball and basketball.

"My dream is to finish school and get a scholarship to go to college and earn a degree," said Shelby.

Shelby is the daughter of Craig and Shannon Parnacher, of Latta.

Kristi Warren



Kristi Warren

Kristi Warren is an October 2007 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Technology.

Kristi is a senior at Fox (OK) High School. She was nominated by Fox special education teacher Kenna O'Neal. Kristi is a member of the Business Professionals of America, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, FCCLA and Principal's Honor Roll. As a business information technology student at Southern Oklahoma Technology Center

in Ardmore, Kristi is a member of the National Technical Honor Society. Kristi is also active on the high school softball team.

"She is a hard working student," said Ms. O'Neal. "Kristi is always prepared and does her best in all her endeavors."

Kristi's future plans are to complete her basic college education classes at the Ardmore Higher Education Center and enroll in dental hygiene school at Southern Oklahoma Technology Center.

"After I finish school, I plan to get a good job and start a family," said Kristi.

Kristi is the daughter of Teddy and Donna Warren, of Healdton, Okla.

November 2007 Outstanding Achievement Awards

Chad Forehand

Chad Forehand is a November 2007 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Athletics.



Chad Forehand

Chad is in the seventh grade at Lexington (OK) Middle School. He was nominated by Lexington Middle School coach Jebediah Beck. "Chad shows outstanding leadership in athletics," said Mr. Beck. "He listens well and does everything he is asked to do for the team." Chad enjoys playing basketball and football. In the future, he hopes to play college and NBA basketball. "When I get out of college I want to play for the Denver Nuggets," said Chad. "Then when I retire, I will move back to Lexington with my family."

Chad is the son of Kathy Dunlap, of Lexington.

Brianne Bryant



Brianne Bryant

Brianne Bryant is a November 2007 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Athletics. Brianne is a junior at Lexington (OK) High School. She was nominated by Lexington High School chemistry

teacher and coach Brian Snow. "Brianne has worked hard to attain a high level of achievement through classes that will better prepare her for college," said Mr. Snow. "Her work ethic continues in the classroom and onto the fields of play." Brianne is a member of FCCLA, Gifted and Talented program, Show Choir, Spanish Club and the Johnson-O'Malley program. She is also among students on the Principal's Honor Roll. She has lettered in fast- and slow-pitch softball, basketball and track. Brianne has also qualified for the state track meet during her freshman and sophomore years, and has been named to the All-Conference softball team. "My future goals consist of going to college and playing sports," said Brianne. "I would love to become a vet or maybe even a coach."

Brianne is the daughter of Faron and Nnette Bryant, of Lexington.

Jordan Zilem



Jordan Zilem

Jordan Zilem is a November 2007 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Citizenship. Jordan is in the fifth grade at Latta (OK) Elementary School and was nominated by Latta Elementary fifth-grade teacher Michelle Ellison. "She is a cooperative student who works hard in all of her classes and works well with her classmates," said Ms. Ellison. "Jordan is a student of great qualities." Jordan is proud of her Chickasaw heritage. She likes riding horses, swimming, playing basketball and participating in gymnastics. "I like all kinds of animals," said Jordan. "When I grow up I would like to be a veterinarian."

Jordan is the daughter of Paul and Kim Zilem, of Stonewall, Okla.

Martin Brady



Martin Brady

Martin Brady is a November 2007 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor

See Outstanding Students, page 21

Chickasaws earn bachelor's degrees from East Central University

ADA, Okla. — A total of 11 Chickasaw students were presented bachelor's degrees during recent ceremonies at East Central University.

The first-ever East Central Fall Commencement was Saturday, Dec. 15 at the University's Robert S. Kerr Activities Center.

Chickasaw students graduating Saturday were Elliott Albers, Brandon Goforth, Adrian Gold, Matthew Harp, Mary Hartley, Chad Henry, Renee Hogue, Myndy James, Jeffery Jennings, Sonya Johns and Rina Phillips.

Prior to the commencement ceremony, the East Central University Alpha Chi National College Honor Scholarship Society hosted the first Fall Honors Graduation Ceremony at the East Central University Stanley Wagner Ballroom.

Seven Chickasaw students were recognized with honors during the ceremony.

The Chickasaw students received honor stoles for their educational accomplishments. Students maintaining at least a 3.0 grade point average received honor stoles, and students with 3.5 grade point averages or higher received a feathered honor stole.

Honor stole graduates were Adrian Gold, Matthew Harp, Mary Hartley, Chad Henry, Renee Hogue, Jeffery Jennings and Rina Phillips.

For more information about educational services and programs with the Chickasaw Nation, call (580) 421-7711 or visit www.chickasaweducationservices.com.

Contributed by Brooke Tidwell, tribal media relations.



Chickasaw students received honors at the first Fall Honor's Graduation Ceremony at 8 a.m. Saturday, December 15, at the East Central University Ballroom. Back row from left, Renee Hogue, Mary Hartley, Chad Henry, Jeffery Jennings and Rina Phillips. Front row, Matthew Harp. Not pictured, Adrian Gold.

Outstanding students, continued from page 20

Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Leadership. Martin is a senior at Healdton (OK) High School. He was nominated by Healdton High School counselor Angie Munholland. "He has very strong leadership qualities," said Ms. Munholland. "Martin is an honor roll student and a great role model for younger children." Martin is active in student government and serves as student council vice-president. He is also involved in FCCLA, Beta Club, National Honor Society, Yearbook, and Gifted and Talented program. Martin has received numerous awards in academics and sports, including the Citizenship Award. He was also named a Lions Club Student of the Month. Martin has been named to the *Ardmoreite* All-Area First Team in baseball and football. "After Graduation, I plan to attend Oklahoma State University and major in journalism," said Martin. "My main goal is to get a good education and a good job."

Martin is the son of Bill and Shannon Brady, of Healdton

Emilee Cross

Emilee Cross is a November 2007 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Academics. Emilee is in the seventh grade

at Lone Grove (OK) Middle School in and was nominated by Lone Grove Middle School geography teacher Steven Pyle. "She stays well above 100 percent and still completes bonus assignments in order to get the most out of geography class," said Mr. Pyle.

"Emilee's behavior is model and she is very respectful of teachers and students." Emilee is a member of the Superintendent's Honor Roll and has received awards in math, science, English, reading and social studies. She is a member of the Advanced Choir in Vocal Music, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the newspaper staff. Emilee is also on the basketball, softball and track teams. She attends Lone Grove Assembly of God Church where she is involved with the Girls Ministries program. "A goal I set for myself is to become the valedictorian of my senior class," said Emilee. "I also plan on attending the University of Oklahoma and becoming a doctor."

Emilee is the daughter of John and Darla Cross, of Lone Grove.

Contributed by Brooke Tidwell, tribal media relations.



Emilee Cross

'Chepota Chikasha Anumpoli' (children speaking Chickasaw)



Zachery and Dawnette Weaver singing Chickasaw-related Christmas songs.



Haley Shaw posing with her decorated gingerbread cookie.

On Saturday, December 15 at the Chickasaw Wellness Center in Ada, the Chickasaw Language Club conducted its monthly "Chepota Chikasha Anumpoli" (children speaking Chickasaw) meeting. Children up to the age of nine participated in a "Christmas Gingerbread House Fun Day." The children learned Chickasaw words related to Christmas, listened to Christmas stories and decorated gingerbread cookies.

Texas Chickasaws participate in program for families of wounded soldiers



Suzette Locke, secretary of the Chickasaw Community Council of South Texas, helps the children of wounded soldiers do a Native American dance during the Wounded Warriors Program at the Brooke Army Hospital in San Antonio, Texas.

Three Chickasaws were among about 25 Native Americans who participated in a one-hour Native American culture program at the Brooke Army Hospital at the Brooke Army Medical Center's program for wounded servicemen and servicewomen and their families on December 8.

It was called the "Wounded

Warriors Program" and lasted for five hours with crafts, food and different culture programs.

Native Americans including members of Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, Apache, Cheyenne and Sioux Nations drummed, danced, sang and told Indian stories for wounded service people and their families.

Indian singers featured at Wichita Council

WICHITA, Kan. – The Chickasaw Community Council of Wichita did not meet during December but members participated Dec. 12 in a Christmas party sponsored by Friends of the Keeper at the Mid-America All-Indian Center.

Pam Harjo and Lynn Stumblinbear, chair of the Wichita Council, were among the Methodist Indian singers who performed at the party. Among the gifts distributed to the children were 36 Indian porcelain dolls in native dress. The dolls were donated by Nancy Brooks of

Sherman, Texas, sister of Fran Elliott, historian of the Wichita Council.

The Wichita Council is moving its meeting place to the Mid-America All-Indian Center for the meeting at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20. The gathering will be in the Riverfront Room of the Center at 650 North Seneca.

Reminders will no longer be sent out concerning the regular monthly meetings but look for announcements in the Community Calendar of *the Wichita Eagle* the third week of each month.

Inland Empire Council enjoys Winter powwow



Members of the Chickasaw Community Council of the Inland Empire/Desert Cities attended the 11th Annual Winter Gathering Powwow. Attending were Ted Pannell; Lynn Dorrough, chairperson; Bill Chandler, member at large; Ann Overman, secretary-treasurer; Bobbie Murrell, vice-chairperson.

On December 8, 2007 several California Chickasaws from our Chickasaw Community Council of the Inland Empire/Desert Cities attended the 11th Annual Winter Gathering Powwow at Spotlight 29 Casino Located in Coachella, California. We enjoyed watching several dance groups, drums and singers. This was a great time of fellowship and gathering with other tribes from all across the United States and Canada. There were vendors selling authentic Native American items and food vendors selling Indian tacos and fry bread.

This was a fun time that was enjoyed by all and plans are in the works to attend more Southern California Powwows to represent our Chickasaw Nation Community Council in Southern California.

Central Texas group joins Texas State celebration



Chair Gene (Nashoba) Thompson and secretary/reporter Tom Norton manning the booth at the Texas State University Native American Celebration at San Marcos, Texas.

On November 26-27, 2007, Gene (Nashoba) Thompson, chair of the Central Texas Council presented seven 75-minute lectures followed by 15-minute question-and-answer periods to ninth-grade students at Vista Ridge High School in Cedar Park, Texas.

Gene was invited to speak on American Indians and Native

their own family histories.

On November 28, 2007, the Council manned a booth at the third Annual Texas State University Native American Celebration in San Marcos, Texas. The University's Native American Student Association hosted the Celebration of People.

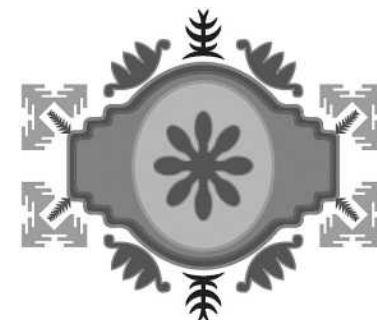
The celebration opened with a welcome by Aaron Pyle, Native American Student Association president and Dr. Sherri Benn, the University's Assistant President for Student Affairs and Head of the University's Multi-Culture Program.

Greg E. Pyle, Chief of the Choctaw Nation, gave the invocation.

The event included Native American dances, story telling, music and food. Our booth provided copies of *the Chickasaw Times*, notepads, pens and information of the Council's activities.

Americans today. He explained how we are highly spiritual, have great respect for elders, care for the young and old, hold councils and have great respect for natural resources.

He told several Native stories and explained the contributions of the modern day Chickasaw Nation. He challenged the students to research and document



Inland Empire/Desert Cities Council votes to meet quarterly

On November 15, 2007, the Inland Empire/Desert Cities Chickasaw Nation Community Council met for their regular quarterly meeting in Banning, California. The meeting was held at the Farm House Restaurant, a popular landmark in the Banning area.

Sharon Nelson, representing the Chickasaw Nation, was the evening's guest host. After enjoying the meal, the Council of approximately 20 Chickasaw Nation members discussed whether or not to continue as a formal council or to disband and meet only as a social club. After some lively discussion, the group voted in favor of continuing as a council with a meeting scheduled once quarterly.

Some members wanted to also meet on an informal basis in their own local areas. Many members have a long commute to reach Banning from as far away as Orange County and the Lake Arrowhead Area of the San Bernardino Mountains.

As a result of the decision to remain a legitimate council, Lynn Dorrough, chairperson, opened the meeting for nominations for officers and members of the board. Many nominations and volunteers to fill the positions were forthcoming and the positions were filled promptly. Chairperson, Lynn Dorrough; Vice-Chairperson, Bobbie Murrell; Secretary/Treasurer, Anne Overman; Board Members at Large, Lodean Casey and Dustin Hendrix; Reporter,

Alex Miller.

Nelson agreed she would sanction the group as a Chickasaw Community Council with the stipulation that the board meet and conduct the required actions at least once each quarter.

A newsletter detailing the activities of the Council will be published. No determination

was made on how often it would be sent out. The possibility of starting a website was also discussed, but will only happen after the council becomes solidly established.

The new board is scheduled to convene at the same location during the next Council meeting on January 10, 2008 to assign

officers their responsibilities and discuss plans for increasing Council membership.

After the election, tickets were drawn for door prizes consisting of two tee-shirts with the Chickasaw seal on the back and a slide show CD of the Oklahoma City Trip to the Homelands Bus Tour.

CHICKASAW COMMUNITY COUNCILS MONTHLY MEETINGS

~~~ Meetings are subject to change, please call the contact person to confirm ~~~

### Ada Chickasaw Community Council

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 6:30 pm  
Marie Bailey Community Center  
1800 Jack John Circle  
Ada, OK  
Pat Cox, Chair  
580-272-0549

### Connerville Area Chickasaw Community Council

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 6:30 pm  
Chickasaw Senior Citizen Site  
Connerville, OK  
Tony Poe, Chair  
580-421-4994  
[tony.poe@chickasaw.net](mailto:tony.poe@chickasaw.net)

### Johnston County Chickasaw Community Council

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 6:30 pm  
Chickasaw Community Building  
1109 Ray Branum Road  
Tishomingo, OK  
Ann Fink, Chair  
580-371-3351  
[flora.fink@chickasaw.net](mailto:flora.fink@chickasaw.net)

### Marshall County Chickasaw Community Council

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 pm  
Marshall County Chickasaw Community Center  
1400 Enos Road  
Kingston, OK  
Patricia Bostick, Chair  
580-564-2975

### Northern Pontotoc Chickasaw Community Council

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7:00 pm  
Chickasaw Enterprises Training Center  
400 NW 32<sup>nd</sup> Hwy. 37  
Newcastle, OK

Tom Hogland, Chair  
405-381-2268

### OKC Metro Chickasaw Community Council

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 pm  
Lakepointe Towers, Sixth Floor  
4005 N.W. Expressway  
Oklahoma City, OK  
Pam Conard, Chair  
405-973-8127  
[drprconard@cox.net](mailto:drprconard@cox.net)

### CALIFORNIA ~~~ Inland Empire/Desert Cities Chickasaw Community Council

Next meeting is February  
Call for location.  
Banning, CA  
Lynn M. Dorrough, Chair  
909-213-7273  
[liknryn@hotmail.com](mailto:liknryn@hotmail.com)

### KANSAS ~~~ Chickasaw Community Council of Wichita, KS

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 3:00 pm  
Wichita Indian United Methodist Church  
1111 N. Meridian  
Wichita, KS  
Lynn Stumblingbear, Chair  
316-945-9219

[lynnstumblingbear@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnstumblingbear@hotmail.com)  
Pam Harjo, Vice-Chair  
316-393-0696

### TEXAS ~~~ Chickasaw Community Council of South Texas

San Antonio, TX Area  
Call for time and location  
Michele Moody, Chair  
210-492-2288  
[mmoody@docuguides.com](mailto:mmoody@docuguides.com)  
  
Chickasaw Community Council of Central Texas

### North Texas Chickasaw Community Council

Dallas/Fort Worth Area, TX  
Meetings held monthly  
Call for time and location  
John C. Atkins, Chair  
972-271-0692  
[Injunjon2@verizon.net](mailto:Injunjon2@verizon.net)

## Dream of owning your own home?

**CHUKA CHUKMASI** is a secondary market Conventional Loan for Chickasaw Citizens and Chickasaw Nation Employees. The CNDHTD can assist you with down payment and closing costs. Qualified borrowers invest as little as \$500.00. We offer expanded underwriting guidelines that allow those with less than perfect credit to be approved. There are no income guidelines. Maximum loan amount is \$359,650.00 and the minimum is \$10,000. In addition we can assist with refinancing for homeowners who want to lower their interest rates and or payments.

**NEW CONSTRUCTION LOANS:** Are you interested in building your own home? If you have been approved for your 30 year financing, Housing Counseling & Loan Services can provide an interim construction loan for you to build your home. This program is open to Chickasaws and employees of the Chickasaw Nation anywhere in the State of Oklahoma. The interest rate on the construction loan is only 5%, the term is 6 months and be prepared to make interest payments on the construction loan during construction. Please call us for further information.

**HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN PROGRAM:** Do you need to make improvements to your home but just don't have the money? Chickasaw Nation Division of Housing & Tribal Development's Home Improvement Loan Program may be the answer. Maximum loan amount is \$30,000.00; interest rate is 5% and maximum term is 10 years. You must be able to qualify for the loan, must have fee simple title and cannot already have a 2nd mortgage for home improvements. Available only for Chickasaws and employees of the Chickasaw Nation in the State of Oklahoma. Work must be completed by a licensed contractor.

### Chickasaw Nation Division of Housing & Tribal Development

901 North Country Club  
P.O. Box 788

**Kay Perry**  
Director, GML, CHEC  
(580) 421-8856  
**Summer Stick**  
Section Head, CHEC  
(580) 421-8862

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**Renea Camp**



# CNHS Diabetes Care Center employees receive CHES certifications



**Shon McCage**

Chickasaw Nation Health System employees Shon McCage and Lea Caufield recently received their Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES) credentials. They are among a select few in the Ada area who hold this certification.

The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. (NCHEC) administers the



**Lea Caufield**

testing and credential process for the CHES exam.

To complete CHES requirements, candidates must hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree in the area of health education. Candidates who successfully achieve CHES accreditation are able to assess individual and community needs for health education, and to plan and implement health education strategies and programs. They serve as health education advocates.

McCage and Caufield must

accumulate a minimum of 75 continuing education units every five years in order to maintain certification.

McCage is a health promotion specialist. Caufield is the REACH 2010/US program manager. Each has been employed with the Chickasaw Nation for more than eight years.

Caufield hopes the credentials will help enhance her career by "improving my understanding of how community needs and assessments work and how to implement strategies to help my community meet identified needs."

Through her CHES certification, McCage hopes to "be able to expand health promotion activities and education opportunities to the people in the Chickasaw Nation Health System."

Caufield holds a bachelor's

degree in health promotion from Oklahoma State University. She has also earned several additional certifications including personal trainer, biomechanics of resistance training and dietary guidance and group exercise/water fitness.

McCage has a bachelor's degree in exercise science from East Central (OK) University and a master's degree in public health in health promotion sciences from the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center. She also holds certifications including breastfeeding educator, lifestyle and weight management consultant, water aerobics instructor, physical fitness specialist and older adult fitness specialist.

Both women began their careers with the Chickasaw Nation and have gained many friends along the way.

"The strong friendships I've made working for the Chickasaw Nation over the years have become the family I never had," said Caufield.

She enjoys spending time with her friends and their families, traveling and learning about other civilizations and religions. Caufield's parents live in Tulsa.

McCage enjoys spending time with her family and friends. She and her husband Chad have two children, Riley and Cooper.

*The NCHEC's mission is to improve the practice of health education and to serve the public and profession of health education by certifying health education specialists, promoting professional development and strengthening professional preparation and practice.*

*Contributed by Karissa Pickett, tribal media relations.*

## Indian children at high risk for injury from house fires

Many Native American children and their families go to sleep every night without the security of an alarm to notify them in case of a fire.

According to the National Fire Data Center, fire is the leading cause of childhood injury and death in the home. Children under five years old are at the highest risk.

American Indian children are twice as likely to be injured or killed by house fires when compared to the general population.

The Chickasaw Nation Head Start is working to reduce this statistic in conjunction with the Sleep Safe Fire Safety Program.

"This program has really prompted us to help provide a safer environment for our families and to give them better protection against the injury that house fires can cause," said Danny Wells, Director of Chickasaw Nation Head Start.

In the three years that the Chickasaw Nation has participated, it has installed approximately 250 alarms in the homes of Head Start students.

"Our goal is to educate and enhance the awareness of fire safety for our Chickasaw families to increase their chances of

surviving a fire," said Rachael Harazda, family service worker for the Sulphur and Duncan sites.

Mrs. Harazda was recently appointed to the national Sleep Safe Curriculum Subcommittee of the Indian Health Injury Prevention Program. Mrs. Harazda and Sherie Miller, also a Family Service Worker, attended the Sleep Safe workshop in Palm Springs, Calif., where they learned about smoke alarm tracking and participated in the sharing and making of children's activities.

Last year, the Chickasaw Nation Head Start's Sleep Safe operation Program was recognized as a model program.

"That made us feel good," said Mr. Wells, "like we are doing something right."

*Contributed by Carrie Bradshaw, tribal media relations.*

## Unique Eagle Book series helps children comprehend diabetes, obesity prevention

Thanks to a unique opportunity through the Centers for Disease Control's Native Diabetes Wellness Program, the Chickasaw Nation Food Distribution program was able to provide the Eagle Book series to all program participants during the month of December.

Each of the 1,500 families participating in the food distribution program received a set of all four books.

The books were created as a tool to help prevent obesity and diabetes. Each book contains healthy lifestyle messages to help children of all ages, as well as family members begin making healthy lifestyle changes.

Along with positive messages presented through the many programs offered by the Chickasaw Nation, the Eagle Book series will help educate future generations of children so they will become bright and healthy leaders of tomorrow.



**Neva and Tim Harjochee read volumes from the Eagle Book series with grandsons Trey and Davion Wilson. The books help children understand the benefits of healthy lifestyles.**

*Contributed by Karissa Pickett, tribal media relations.*

## Various Nursing Positions are available with the Chickasaw Nation

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"A Chickasaw Tribal Member"



## Chickasaw-produced movie graceful, understated

# 'Four Sheets to the Wind' an Indian film worth watching

In a culture where the biggest blockbuster movies involve drunken pirates, superheroes and eye-bulging computer-generated images, "Four Sheets to the Wind" refreshes the moviegoer's palate with something much more understated.

"Four Sheets to the Wind" is an independent film written and directed by Creek citizen Sterlin Harjo, a Holdenville, Okla., native, and produced by the Chickasaw citizen Chad Burris.

Set in Oklahoma, both literally and actually – the movie was filmed in and around the Sooner state communities of Holdenville, Wewoka and Tulsa – "Four Sheets" showcases the quiet awakening of Cufe Smallhill (Cody Lightning). Cufe must deal with the untimely death of his seemingly emotionally and vocally vacant father.

After their father's funeral,

Miri (Tamara Podemski), Cufe's estranged and hard-living sister, invites him to visit her in Tulsa, where he realizes there is much more to life than the 20-mile radius of country in which he was raised. In the "big city," he meets an adventurous companion, Francie (Laura Bailey), sees his sister living on the self-destructive fringe of society and discovers an inner reserved strength he never knew he had.

With a thin plot line that could very easily fall under the radar, the movie is redeemed with Harjo's whimsical touch and close-to-home characterization. Podemski, for example, portrays Miri as frightfully organic, so much so that viewers *know* this character. They have seen her bumming a smoke from them at the local dive, re-filling their coffee without a smile, or eliciting knowing glances from across their own family reunion

table. It's no wonder Podemski is vying for the Best Supporting Actress title at the 2008 Independent Spirit Awards with company such as actress Cate Blanchett.

Oklahomans are treated to a proud burst of familiarity with the rich Oklahoma atmosphere, including both rural and urban landscapes, authentic Okie accents (nothing is worse than Hollywood's version of a "midwestern" accent) and country rhythms produced by composer Jeff Johnston. Native Americans will appreciate the

portrayal of Indian people as more multi-dimensional than the norm. The feather-adorned, overly ceremonious, and teepee-dwelling "token" Indians that are a dime a dozen in popular culture are, thankfully, nowhere to be found.

Native American traditions and culture are gracefully woven throughout the film. From the Muscogee-speaking narrator to the customs displayed at the father's funeral, elements are included with such subtlety that the irony and relativity of the story and characters are not

overshadowed by exploitative stereotypes.

With such wisdom in characterization, paired with innovative landscape and camera work, one could easily forget that Sterlin Harjo and Chad Burris are still riding on the training wheels of filmmaking and worked with an extremely nominal budget of \$200,000.

"Four Sheets to the Wind" is available at Hastings store location and online through NetFlix.com.

*Contributed by Carrie Bradshaw, tribal media relations.*

## Iron Cloud scholarships open to high schoolers

The Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) is now accepting applications for the 11th Annual Patty Iron Cloud National Native American Youth Initiative. This event will be in Washington D.C., June 21 - 29, 2008.

American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) high school students, ages 16- 18, who have an interest in the health careers and/or biomedical research

are encouraged to apply. The NNAYI scholarship pays for travel, lodging, and most meals during the program.

NNAYI's curriculum is strategically designed to prepare students for admission to college and professional schools, as well as for careers in health and biomedical research. To accompany the students, AAIP is accepting applications for counselors, age 21 and older,

to serve as role models during the nine-day program. AI/AN college students and health professionals are encouraged to apply. Deadline for student application is April 18, 2008 and for counselor application is March 21, 2008. Please visit the NNAYI website: [www.aaip.org/programs/nnayi/nnayi.htm](http://www.aaip.org/programs/nnayi/nnayi.htm) to obtain detail information and to access the on-line application.

## Christmas songs



Corbin West and Trinity Cotanny, along with other child care students, sing Christmas songs for family and friends during the December 18 Child Care Christmas Party at the Child Care Center in Ada. Corbin is the son of Michael and Nina West. Trinity is the daughter of Waylon and Lori Cotanny.

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## 'Its About Money'

## Bank2 honored; service to customers always a 'winner'

**Ross Hill**

**By ROSS HILL**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Bank2**

There is an old saying that says, "It's not bragging if it is true."

Your mother might think you are cute but you know it is true when the Miss America Organization crowns you Miss America. Such was the case for Oklahoma native Lauren Nelson. You may have missed seeing Nelson during the Miss America television broadcast but if you have traveled the highways in a five-state area then you have likely seen her sporting a cowgirl hat and holding a glass of milk in one of the

Southwest Dairy Farmers outdoor boards. It is easy to see why Oklahoma has rightly earned bragging rights throughout her reign as Miss America. She is a true beauty!

As the Chief Executive Officer of Bank2, there are plenty of things I would be proud to brag about. But nothing has made me prouder than the recognition we received last week in Tulsa, from the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma (AICCO). I hope you will indulge me when I say, "It's not bragging if it is true, Bank2 has been named by the AICCO as the 2007 Tribally-Owned Company of the Year."

In a recent award letter to Bank2, AICCO Executive Director E. Bernadette Huber stated, "The leadership and success of your company has merited this recognition, and we are proud to present you this award in recognition of your continuing success."

We are truly honored to be recognized as the AICCO 2007 Tribally-Owned Company of the Year. The purpose of the (AICCO) is to assist American Indian businesses by helping

them expand and grow their business. The Chamber actively supports and nurtures well-planned, long-term business opportunities for members by providing organized access to public sector agencies and private industry. Like AICCO, one of our primary purposes at Bank2 is to meet the needs of Native Americans. Doing so is one of our greatest privileges.

Winning awards is fun but nothing makes us prouder than having the opportunity to serve our fellow Native Americans. It's not bragging if it is true. Bank2 is recognized nationally as one of the fastest growing

Native American banks having grown to \$90 million full service financial institution in our short history. Perhaps more importantly we are also recognized for our commitment to Native Americans.

Some banks talk about serving Native America but at Bank2, we are Native American. We take great pride in helping meet the financial needs of thousands of our people.

If you aren't already, I hope you become a Bank2 customer real soon! What is holding you back? After all, we are the 2007 Tribally-Owned Company of the Year. Sorry, I couldn't help but

"brag" a little when it's true!

*Ross A. Hill is CEO of Bank2. Bank2 is a growing \$90 million full service financial institution with headquarters in Oklahoma City, Okla. Bank2 is owned 100% by the Chickasaw Nation. It's About Money is published monthly by Bank2 as a financial service to members of the Chickasaw Nation. To learn more about the many great financial services and Bank2 home loan programs designed especially for Native Americans, call toll-free nationwide, 1-877-409-2265 or online at [www.bank2.biz](http://www.bank2.biz).*

## Visit the CHIC Center!

The CHIC Center is a patient health information center where you can use computers to access health care information through the National Library of Medicine. It is located in the main lobby of CAIHF. CHIC Center staff is available to assist patients during their visit. Privacy screens will also be utilized so patients can maintain confidentiality and printers will be available for those who prefer to print information for home review.

Visit [www.chicresources.net](http://www.chicresources.net) or [www.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.nlm.nih.gov) to access the latest in health information.

For more information on the CHIC Center, call Elizabeth Brewer at (580) 436-3980 ext. 80919.



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## Mill Creek sophomore named November Student of the Month



**Shi Anne Smith-Veach**

The Chickasaw Foundation established the Chickasaw Foundation Student of the Month program to recognize and honor students who display the following characteristics: good citizenship, respectful to peers and program staff, program participation, leadership qualities, positive attitude, demonstrates responsibility, community service participation, cultural/tribal activities participation and dem-

onstrates a positive academic work ethic.

Ms. Shi Anne Smith-Veach was selected as the November 2007 Student of the Month. Shi Anne is a sophomore at Mill Creek High School and has been a member of the Upward Bound program since February. She was nominated by Ms. Rebecca Easterling, academic advisor for the Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound program.

Shi Anne participates in basketball, softball and track, and attended the summer session of the Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound program. She was selected the top student in Algebra I, received the Lions Roar award and her Literature class won the top student award. The summer session allowed her to improve her math and science grades in school. Her future plans include attending college at Oklahoma State University and majoring in dentistry. She hopes to some day own her own ranch and cattle business.

## 'Ant and Grasshopper' brings science, nature alive for very young students

On Friday, March 7, 2008, the Ada Arts Council presents the "Seem-To-Be-Players" at East Central University's Dorothy Summers Theatre for performance of "THE ANT AND THE GRASSHOPPER," by Ric Averill. This program is made possible with assistance from the Oklahoma Arts Council.

Take a trip through the four seasons in this great Aesop's Fable for the very young! A frivolous, fiddle-playing Grasshopper completely exasperates the hard-working Ant throughout the course of an entire year. A singing Caterpillar, a wacky Squirrel and a high-strung Bird (puppet) round out the cast of creatures who live their entire annual life cycles in a colorful ever-changing forest clearing.

Original bluegrass-style music by composer/artistic director Ric Averill enhances the company's celebration of the cycle of the seasons. The beautiful set change seasons as well, from Spring through Winter,

from a lush green tree to the final snow-covered, hollowed-out warm and cozy stump home of the Ant, a shelter the shivering Grasshopper wishes to share.

A lesson plan will be provided to teachers to prepare students for the show. The entire cast will spend a few minutes with the audience after the show, reviewing the fun-filled science lessons hibernation, migration, metamorphosis and the cycle of the seasons. The company will also reveal just what happened to the Caterpillar and answer a few kid questions as well.

Science and nature come alive in an educational and entertaining way in this production recommended for the very young: 3-5 year olds and K-3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Admission charge will be \$2 for children and \$5 for adults. Performances are scheduled at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Contact Brenda Revels for group reservations by e-mail [brevels@cableone.net](mailto:brevels@cableone.net) or by phone 580-235-0193.

## Upward Bound students tour OU campus, explore Noble Museum



**Issac Gregg and Heather Stinnet accept their Chickasaw Foundation Student of the Month plaques.**

The Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math/Science students' monthly meeting was conducted at Golden Corral in Norman. Students were transported by bus from various locations.

Issac Gregg and Heather Stinnet were presented their student of the month awards.

The students were also given an assignment to write letters to Mr. Steve Cheadle, director of the Trio programs, who will soon be deployed to Iraq.

Students visited the University of Oklahoma campus to tour the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History and take a guided tour of the campus. Bryan Webb, recent

OU graduate, and Susan Webb, also an OU graduate, provided information about the campus as well as admission and financial aid information. Former Upward Bound Math/Science participant and OU student, Denver Winchester, also visited with the students.

The Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math/Science programs were recently funded for another four years through the U.S. Department of Education to provide services to 21 target schools throughout The Chickasaw Nation. For more information about these programs, call (580) 371-9903.

Chickasaw Foundation staff Rici Love, Steve Kile and Susan Webb attended the Southwest Association of Students Assistance Programs (SWASAP) conference in New Orleans on November 25-28, 2007. The Southwest region includes Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and New Mexico. Staff attended workshops and plenary sessions for Trio staff development.

Susan Webb received a five-year SWASAP service pin during the conference.

Guest speakers providing significant information for Trio programs included Dr. Arnold Mitchem; president of the Council for Opportunity in Education, Dr. John Gardner; executive director of the Policy Center on the First Year of College, and Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson, director of federal Trio programs for the U.S. Department of Education.

## Foundation scholarship application form soon available on the web

The Chickasaw Foundation's 2008-2009 scholarship application should be available shortly after the new year. Please check our website [www.chickasaw-foundation.org](http://www.chickasaw-foundation.org) in February 2008. You may also call our office at (580) 421-9030 for any information regarding our scholarships or to be placed on our scholarship mailing list.



**Rici Love, Susan Webb and Steve Kile attending the Southwest Association of Students Assistance Programs (SWASAP) conference in New Orleans, Nov. 25 - 28.**



# Interested in researching your family history? Read on!

## By RICHARD GREEN Contributing Writer

Every month, I receive several e-mails from people with questions about their Chickasaw ancestry. Some believe that because I'm tribal historian I can help them find information, for example, about their great, great, great grandmother whose name they don't know, but they've heard that she came to Indian Territory on the Trail

of Tears. That's a tall order, but not out of the question for the right resource person...who is not me.

Though I'm not a genealogist--a person who traces family trees--I can and do point these correspondents in the right direction. I admit most requests aren't so complicated as the one above. Many are from those who think they might have a Chickasaw ancestor and want help finding out.

I'm glad to make referrals

because I know how dedicated and passionate some people are about researching their family's history. In various archives, I've witnessed scenes of people who are bent low in the dark examining some record via a glowing microfilm reader when suddenly they experience a eureka moment, and announce it to the room.

So I connect them to one of two tribal genealogists, Amber Underwood in Ada or Dinah Worcester in Tishomingo. Both

Chickasaws are happy to help, but it's not like they are waiting to hear from me. Dinah says she gets up to 40 e-mails and 25 phone-call inquiries each month. Amber gets up to 100 inquiries a month. Most of their inquiries involve searching for ancestors on the tribal rolls that were developed by the Dawes Commission during the United States mandated land allotment period from 1898 to 1906. People who are the direct descendants of Chickasaws listed on the tribal

rolls may apply for tribal membership. Some 2,195 new citizens were added in 2006.

But to help you, you must help the genealogists by doing some basic but essential research. As to what that is, I asked Amber Underwood to share this information for researchers. She responded first with basic information for would-be researchers and then a background primer on the development of the tribal rolls.

## Researcher Basic Information

In order to search for your ancestor on the tribal rolls, you must first find certain basic information about your *direct ancestors*. They are your natural parents, their parents, that is, your grandparents and so on, your great-grandparents, great-great grandparents, etc.) You must find their full and maiden names and at least approximate birth years for these direct ancestors until you get back to the generation that was alive during the period of 1898 to 1906.

Often people think, "I have no one left in my family who knows the names and dates of

our ancestors. How will I find this information with nothing to go on?" They think they are stuck and won't be able to make a search. But even if you don't know who your ancestors were, there are steps you can take to begin your search.

Start with what you know and work back. If you have absolutely no information, the first step is to obtain your own birth record from the vital records department in the state where you were born. (There will be nominal fees for these records. Information about vital records can be found at <http://vitalrec.com/>.) Your record will show

your parents' names.

You will then try to get your parents' birth and/or death records from the state(s) where they were born or died. Their birth or death records will show their parents' names. You should get all your direct ancestors' birth and/or death records back to around 1900. When you have this information, we can search the Dawes Roll for you.

To be listed on the Dawes Roll, people had to have lived in Indian Territory around 1900. We won't have records of people who never lived there. People who didn't come to Indian Territory forfeited their rights as

citizens of these tribes. In addition, people born later than 1906 will not be listed.

One other thing to keep in mind: being on this roll was voluntary and many people who could have been listed were not. Because your ancestor is not on the Dawes Roll, doesn't necessarily mean that he or she were not Indian. They may have been from some tribe other than the Five Civilized Tribes, or maybe they didn't register or couldn't meet all the requirements. We also have records concerning rejected applications.

If your ancestor is not listed on the Dawes Final Roll, then

you will not be able to obtain a CDIB (Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood) card from these tribes. For a Chickasaw Nation CDIB card, your ancestor must be listed on one of the "Chickasaw by blood" rolls.

**Contact information:** Dinah Worcester@chickasaw.net. (580) 371-0150, **Genealogy Archive Center, 402 W. 8<sup>th</sup>, Tishomingo, OK 73460**. Amber Underwood@chickasaw.net (580) 310-6488, **Chickasaw Nation Library/Genealogy, 1003 Chamber Loop, Ada, OK 74820**

## Dawes Commission very imperfect system of census

The Dawes rolls may be traced to the 1887 the General Allotment Act. It gave the U.S. government the power to divide certain lands held by Indian tribes and give it out in allotments to qualifying citizens of these tribes. The Five Civilized Tribes (Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, Creek, and Seminole) were not originally included in this act until 1893 when Congress enacted a statute that provided for a federal commission, which became known as the Dawes Commission, to negotiate allotment agreements with the five tribes and other tribes of Indian Territory.

Initially, the five tribes refused to cooperate with the government, hoping that they could fight the decision which would essentially dissolve their tribal governments. Nevertheless,

members of the Dawes Commission traveled to Indian Territory in 1893 to begin the task of making tribal rolls of the five tribes with or without the tribes' cooperation.

When land surveyors began surveying the lands, the tribes realized that the U.S. was determined to divide up the land, and without the cooperation of the tribes, applicants with no real connection to these tribes could and would be added to tribal rolls. So by 1897, the Chickasaws and Choctaws completed an allotment pact, the Atoka Agreement, providing that all Chickasaw and Choctaw lands shall be allotted to members of both tribes except for town sites and lands containing minerals. Freedmen and their descendants were each to be given 40 acres from the two tribes' domain. Al-

though the Chickasaws in 1897 did not ratify the agreement, most of it was included in the Curtis Act in 1898, which both tribes ratified. In addition to land allotments, the act provided that tribal trust funds were to be paid through per capita payments and the tribal governments were to be terminated by March 4, 1906.

Subsequent enactments permitted new-borns to be enrolled through 1902, but that freedmen born after 1899 could not be enrolled.

By 1898 the Dawes staff proceeded with the preparation of the tribal rolls of the five tribes, in advance of the land allotment process. People who wished to apply for this roll had to travel to the place where the Dawes Commission was set up and answer questions

concerning their connection to these tribes--whether by blood, intermarriage, or slavery. Their information was transferred to Dawes census cards showing the members of their households under the names they went by at the time of enrollment (usually 1898).

People came flooding in from all over the country hoping to get a land allotment. So many applications were made that the Dawes Commission, in order to facilitate the process, began approving applications despite protests of the Chickasaw Citizenship Committee. Supposedly, the applicant had to reside in Indian Territory during the years of the allotment process, and show sufficient proof of their tribal connection to be listed on the Final Roll. Proof consisted of such things as their names

on previous annuity or census rolls taken in Indian Territory, marriage records, birth affidavits, or statements by witnesses who testified in court as to the applicant's status.

Thousands of people with fraudulent claims applied and were added to the Chickasaw and Choctaw rolls. After tribal officials appealed to a special court in Washington, D.C., about 3,500 applications were denied. Other applications were rejected for a variety of other reasons, such as the absence of their names from previous tribal rolls. Still other people simply did not wish to apply. Some people didn't want it known that they were Indian. Some people were afraid of the U.S. government's

*See Historical Sketch,  
page 29*



## Freedom Forum Indian journalism session open to Indian college students

VERMILLION, S.D. — The Freedom Forum is accepting applications until Feb. 1 for the eighth American Indian Journalism Institute summer session, the premier journalism training, scholarship and summer internship program for Native American college students, June 1-20, 2008.

Students attend AIJI for free and receive other financial assistance. Applications are welcome from any Native American college student preparing to become a journalist. In its first seven years, 156 students completed the program. Instructions and application forms are available at [www.freedomforum.org/diversity](http://www.freedomforum.org/diversity).

AIJI students will be eligible for college credit by taking one of several journalism courses taught at the Freedom Forum's Al Neuharth Media Center, on

the University of South Dakota's Vermillion campus. Once accepted, AIJI students will be placed in an appropriate course based on their experience, interests and previous coursework.

Top AIJI graduates will be hired for six-week paid internships as reporters, copy editors, photographers and multimedia journalists at daily newspapers and with The Associated Press beginning about July 1. Last summer, 16 AIJI graduates worked in paid news internships.

"The intent of AIJI is to recruit, train, mentor and retain Native Americans for journalism careers," said Jack Marsh, AIJI director and Freedom Forum vice president for diversity programs. "AIJI is an intense and demanding academic program that opens doors for those who have the passion and the

potential to succeed as professional journalists."

The Freedom Forum administers and funds AIJI, including tuition, fees, books, room and board. To be eligible for AIJI, Native students must have completed at least one year of college. Applications for the program will be accepted from new participants and from returning AIJI students who want more training.

Program graduates will earn four hours of college credit from the University of South Dakota that students may transfer to their current school. In addition, graduates will receive a \$500 stipend/scholarship from the Freedom Forum, paid when they resume full-time studies in the fall.

Select AIJI graduates will be hired to work at [www.reznet-news.org](http://www.reznet-news.org), the Native American online news site, during the school year.

Students must be able to provide their own transportation to and from Vermillion, S.D., and must attend the full program beginning Sunday afternoon, June 1, and ending Friday afternoon, June 20. Each student will

have a single room in a dormitory. Meals will be provided on campus. AIJI forbids the use of alcohol, other intoxicants and illegal drugs at any time during the program. Violators will be dismissed from the institute.

The American Indian Journalism Institute is part of the Freedom Forum Diversity Institute's commitment to increase employment diversity in daily newsrooms.

"Having even one Native American working in a newsroom makes that newspaper more aware of Indians in its community, and more sensitive and intelligent in reporting stories about them," Marsh said. "American Indians are by far the most underrepresented people of color in the news media, and this often results in stereotypical and erroneous coverage of Indian issues and Indian people."

The American Society of Newspaper Editors' annual employment census identified about 332 Natives among the industry's 56,982 newspaper journalists.

AIJI also offers a semester-long Visiting Scholars Program at the University of South Dako-

ta every fall and spring. Students are mentored by a journalist in residence and take a full load of college courses in journalism and related subjects. The program was created for students from schools that don't offer journalism courses. Fellowships are available to visiting scholars to cover the cost of tuition, fees, room and board.

In addition to journalism diversity programs at the University of South Dakota and at the John Seigenthaler Center in Nashville, Tenn., the Freedom Forum funds and helps organize the Native American Journalism Career Conference at Crazy Horse Memorial in South Dakota's Black Hills. The workshop, April 22-24, 2008, introduces high school and college Native students to journalism career options.

The Freedom Forum, based in Washington, D.C., is a nonpartisan foundation dedicated to free press, free speech and free spirit for all people. The foundation focuses on three priorities: the Newseum, an interactive museum of news in Washington, D.C.; the First Amendment and newsroom diversity.

## Historical Sketch, continued from page 28

intentions or were threatened by tribal factions who were "anti-Dawes Roll" and not interested in dividing the land under any circumstance.

People who applied, supplied proof, finished the enrollment process, and were approved, were given roll numbers and land allotments. The Dawes final roll included the Chickasaw by

blood roll, the Chickasaw freedmen roll, and the Chickasaw Newborn and Minors Rolls. These Chickasaw rolls were completed on January 1, 1906. The rolls included 1,538 full bloods, 4,146 mixed bloods, and 635 inter-married whites. Chickasaw freedmen numbered 4,670.

## Ardmore Chickasaw language class



Back row from left, Russel Anoatubby, Patrick James, Dennis James, Leslie Mose, Louise Gaddis, Sue Simmons, Rita Roberts, Loree Dresser, Bill Simmons, Stella Hornbeak, James Johnson, and teacher: Curtis Willis. Middle row from left, Hawaii Anoatubby, Gloria Baptiste, Winnie McNeely, Marilyn Cooper, Sallie Palmer, Luther Wooley, Emil Farve, Winston Jefferson, Mary Sparkman (very far right standing). Seated from left, Nora Lumpkin, Lucretia Vogt, LaWanda Farve, Deanna Johnson, Gracie Cain, Janis Cain, Cynthia Mose, Christine Lewis, Jamie Mose. Kneeling, Thalia Garcia, Tiahna Taylor. Insert Nadine Lewis. Not pictured Thedo Underwood.

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## Health Care, continued from page 1

The new facility is also designed to accommodate heavy traffic flow in an efficient manner. In addition to patients going directly to their specific clinics, facility employees will move about the health care center by means of a dedicated employee corridor. The corridor allows providers and other employees rapid access to each of the clinics and other areas. The design will eliminate competition between employees and patients for space while traveling inside the 370,000 square-foot facility.

Imaging is a new and exciting service that will be offered in the new facility. Currently, patients who require imaging services must travel to outside facilities. The new facility will offer a 13,000 square-foot imaging center and quick access for patients. The imaging center is proposed to be equipped with two computed tomography (CT) scans and one magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

CT and MRI images are, in today's medicine, heavily utilized by physicians. Patients will experience much greater convenience with the in-plant imaging center.

Additionally, a specially-designed women's imaging center will feature an ultrasound, two digital mammography, and a DEXA (bone density).

Processes and design throughout the facility will enhance the flow of information, patients, care providers and equipment.

Same day clinic and emergency department patients, in particular, will experience a much more streamlined process. In the new system, patients seeking treatment in the same day clinic or emergency department will all enter a common triage area. In the triage area, nurses and other care providers will analyze patients' conditions, then refer them on to one of the two clinics.

The benefits of common triage stem from the quick assessment of patients, ensuring each is directed to the proper area for the correct care.

The dental clinic, for which there has historically been high demand, will grow from 10 chairs to 31 chairs. The change has long been planned, but has been hindered by lack of adequate expansion space. The new facility will accommodate the three-fold increase.

The Family Practice Clinic will be greatly expanded. Each clinic will feature five physicians and one mid-level practitioner housed in a "fingers" system designed for highest efficiency.

The pediatrics area will be divided into "well child" and "sick child" areas. Physician assistants will be added to the pediatrics staff to speed immunizations and check-ups.

The health facility laboratory has been conceived to deliver fast test results for physicians. Physicians can send specimens to the central lab through a pneu-

matic tube system. The lab then runs the ordered tests in-house and returns the gathered information to the physician.

All primary care clinics will be located on the first floor of the facility.

On the facility's second floor will be surgery, specialty clinics, women's clinic, dental clinic, eye clinic, audiology and the Diabetes Care Center.

A number of welcoming labor, delivery and recovery (LDR) rooms await soon-to-be moms on the second floor. Following delivery, mother and baby are then moved to a private room.

Chickasaws and other patients will notice plenty of new, convenient and familiar touches in the new facility.

Private rooms are relatively

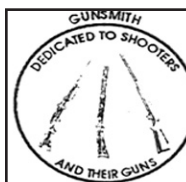
large, and feature large bathrooms, to accommodate patient and family. Beds in private rooms look directly out the windows to give patients the best view of the country surrounding the facility. Each room is a bit different from all other in-patient room.

For ambulatory patients, a number of walking paths outside

the facility offer fresh air and exercise.

Family bathrooms and family showers will be available, as well as breastfeeding lounges located throughout the facility.

Chickasaws will be quick to notice new signage in the facility. Signs will be in English, with Chickasaw words incorporated.



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## Directory available for tribal entrepreneurs

A directory of businesses owned by Chickasaws is being created to help promote economic opportunity for tribal entrepreneurs.

There is no cost to be listed in the directory, which will include the name of the business, contact and location informa-

tion, as well as information on the goods or services provided by the business.

In addition to a printed directory, a web site will be created to enable electronic access to all information.

Chickasaws with a CDIB who

would like to be listed in the directory should provide the information requested on the form below via email to vicky.gold@chickasaw.net or complete the form below and return to *The Chickasaw Times*, P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74821.

### CHICKASAW NATION BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Date of submission: \_\_\_\_\_ Regional Chickasaw Council: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Company name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Owner's Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Other contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of product/services (be specific): \_\_\_\_\_

Ownership Information:

List all shareholders, officers directors or outside firms that hold an interest in the company. List the percentage of the business they own and list if they possess a CDIB and Tribal affiliation.:

| Name/Title | Percent Ownership | CDIB | Tribal Affiliation |
|------------|-------------------|------|--------------------|
|            |                   |      |                    |
|            |                   |      |                    |
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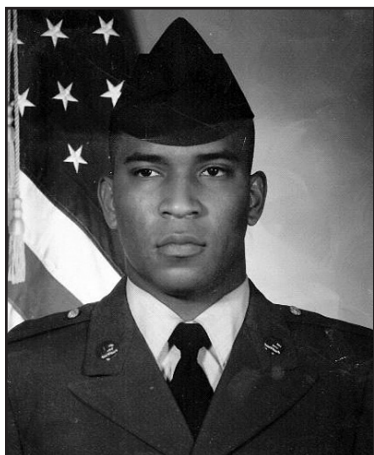
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## Robert Wayne Johns, Sr.



Graveside services for Robert Wayne Johns, Sr., 41, were Oct. 15, 2007, at McAlister Cemetery with the Rev. Melvin Palmer officiating. He died Oct. 12, 2007 at Oklahoma City. He was born Feb. 26, 1966, at Lawton, Okla., to Walter "Sonny" and Tia Juana Wilson Johns.

Mr. Johns was raised in Ardmore, Okla., and was proud of his heritage of the Mississippi Choctaw, Chickasaw and Cherokee tribes.

He graduated from Ardmore High School and attended Murray State College, Tishomingo, Okla., before enlisting in the U.S. Army. He was a member of the Army National Guard at Ardmore.

He was preceded in death by his father; a great-niece, Alexis Paige Culberson; his Cherokee grandfather, Jack Wilson; Chickasaw grandmother, Lorene Harris; great-grandmother Amanda Cravatt, an original Chickasaw enrollee; Mississippi Choctaw, Charley John and Virgie (Sampson) John.

He is survived by a son, Robert Wayne Johns, Jr.; a daughter, Maiganne Johns, both of Wayne, Okla.; his mother, Tia Juana Johns, Ardmore; four sisters, Marquita Embrey, Ardmore, Sonya Johns, Ada, Okla., Andrea Johns, Lone Grove, Okla., and Robyn Miller and her husband, Andy, Stonewall, Okla.; a brother, Donald Johns and his wife, Charlene, Ardmore; and numerous aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces and cousins.

He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends. Bearers were Cody Duane, Daniel John and David Johnson, George B. Tsoodle, Winston Palmer and Jacob Thompson.

## Harley Leroy Brown



Harley Leroy Brown, 72, of Harlem, Mont., died Nov. 15, 2007. Funeral services were Nov. 19, 2007 at the Harlem High School Gymnasium. Officiating were Reverend Howard Herndon and Father Joseph Retzel. Burial followed in Harlem Cemetery.

He was born Sept. 14, 1935 in Sulphur, Okla., to Elias and Virgie (Perry) Brown.

He was an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation and attended schools in Sulphur and Chilocco Indian School.

He served in the U.S. Navy from January 1955 to December 1959. He served aboard the USS Sierra, based at Norfolk, Va. His deployment cruises were in the Mediterranean, Atlantic and European waters. He was honorably discharged Dec. 14, 1959. While in the service he met and married Rita DiMartino in Naples, Italy. They had three children, Virgie Ann, Roy and Susan Brown. The couple later divorced. After his discharge he moved to California to seek employment. In 1963 he met Caroline Mount, from Hays, Mont., the couple married and had two children, Ramona and Sharon Brown. They were married 44 years and lived in Montana for 34 years.

In 1970 he moved his family to Fort Belknap where he began employment as a police officer and later served as police chief until October 1973. He then moved his family to Harlem and began working for the Harlem Police Department. In June 1974 he was recruited to serve as a deputy sheriff of Blaine County. He remained with the

Blaine County Sheriff's Department until June 1999 when he retired after suffering a stroke. In addition to his many years of law enforcement he was elected to the Harlem School Board, School District #12 and served two terms in the 1980s.

After his retirement he was able to spend quality time in Oklahoma with family and friends and assisted his sisters in caring for their mother. He also assisted in the care of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, which he loved very much. He and his wife, Caroline, always planned to move to Oklahoma during their senior years.

He is survived by his wife, Caroline Brown, Harlem; daughters, Virgie Ann Brown, Minneapolis, Susan Messerly and husband Gordon, of Billings, Ramona Horn and husband, Curtis, of Ft. Belknap, Sharon Brown and husband Chris, of Alamogordo, N.M.; a son, Roy Brown, of Tucson; 10 grandchildren, Heidi, Leslie, Belinda, Jessica, Jeremiah, Vanessa, Brittney, Lexus, Damon and Samantha; four great-grandchildren, Angel, Angelita, Dominic and Angela; a brother, Paul Brown and wife Pat of Hayward, Calif.; sisters, Juanita Underwood and husband Gene and Sue Underwood and husband Sam, all of Sulphur, Madeline Reed and husband Paul, of Denton, Texas, and Anna Postoak, of Ardmore, Okla.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

## Rosella Maude Jopling Ussery

Rosella Maude Jopling Ussery died Dec. 1, 2007 at Ardmore, Okla. She was born May 24, 1922 in the Greasy Bend Community, northwest of Mannsville, Okla., to Edwin and Thanet Colbert Jopling Thompson an original enrollee.

She attended schools at Norris Chapel, Mannsville and Chilocco.

She married Roy T. Ussery July 5, 1960 and was a member of Seventh Day Adventist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy T. Ussery, July 15, 2005; her parents; three brothers, Richard and Andy Gillispie Jopling and E.W. (Punkin) Thompson, JR.; two sisters, Beth Payne and Ramona Willis;

and a nephew.

She is survived by 12 nephews, nieces and several cousins.

Graveside services were Dec. 4, 2007 at Lone Cedar Cemetery near Mannsville, with Robert Gill, a family friend officiating.

## Ronald Edmund Jacome

Ronald Edmund Jacome, 40, of Duncan, died Tuesday, October 23, 2007, in his home.

Services were October 26 at Prairie Assembly of God Church, Comanche, Okla., with Jack Whitfield and Dow Pannell officiating. Burial followed in Fairlawn Cemetery, Comanche, under direction of Comanche Funeral Home.

Mr. Jacome was born November 16, 1966, in San Mateo, Calif., to Joaquin Jacome and Kathleen Whitfield Stoner.

He was raised in California and Texas. He graduated from Boyd (Texas) High School in 1984. He was assistant store manager at Winn Dixie and Target stores in the Fort Worth area for several years. He was an EMT when he lived in Mississippi.

Survivors include his parents Kathleen and Melvin Stoner, of Duncan and Joaquin and Gloria Jacome, of Freemont, Calif.; a

sister, Donna Hutchins, of Duncan; two brothers Victor Jacome, of Ardmore, Okla., and Ivan Jacome, of Lincoln, Calif.; his grandfather, Marion Whitfield, of Comanche; grandmother, Genoveva "Kitty" Pipkin, of Hayworth, Calif.; two nephews Joaquin and Gabriel Jacome; a niece, Allysa Jacome; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandfather, Joaquin Jacome Sr.; grandmother, Sadie Whitfield; a niece, Vanessa Jacome; and a nephew, Maximillion Jacome.

## Gloria Ann Snyder

Gloria Ann (Lilly) Snyder, 65, died on Dec. 1, 2007 in Gainesville, Florida

She has gone to join her husband, Eugene Snyder, who preceded her in death.

She is survived by her mother, Pauline Lilly, of Ocala, Fla; her children, Mary Jane Stricklin, of Seattle; Terri Steffen, Troy Snyder and Steven Snyder of Minneapolis, and Roger Snyder of Gainesville; her siblings, Arline Carrier, Sandra Lilly and Mark Lilly all of Ocala. She will also be missed by her many grandchildren, nieces and nephews and all their children.

Mom, we will all miss your strength.

## Note of thanks

The Johns Family would like to thank you for your kind expression of sympathy on our recent loss of Robert.

Our family deeply appreciates the pallbearers, the U.S. Army, Chickasaw Nation Honor Guard, all those who sent flowers, sympathy cards, donated personal services, sent music, or food, to those who called with the kindest words and thought of us during those days.

The Johns family finds healing in God's tender embrace, and in knowing others remembered and cared.

Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

On behalf of Robert W. Johns, Sr. family

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## Roy Jennings

Roy Jennings of Germantown, Tenn., retired public relations executive and former newsman, died November 22, 2007 at the age of 83. Services were November 25 at Memphis Funeral Home Poplar Avenue. Burial followed in Memorial Park.

Since retiring in 1989 as director of communications for Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Mr. Jennings spent much of his time outdoors as a certified master gardener working with the Handy Hands ministry at Germantown Baptist Church. He also enjoyed visiting in classrooms and churches describing Creek Indian culture to school children and senior citizens.

Mr. Jennings, a Chickasaw citizen with Choctaw and Creek blood, was born and reared in Canadian, Oklahoma. Graduating from Canadian High School in 1941 as valedictorian, he

enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He completed three tours of combat duty in the North and South Pacific during World War II as an aviation radioman.

Thanks to the GI Bill, Mr. Jennings earned his bachelor of arts degree in Journalism at the University of Oklahoma in 1949 and was employed by Frank Algren, editor of *The Memphis Commercial Appeal*, as a reporter. During 10 years at *The Memphis Commercial Appeal*, Mr. Jennings covered police and federal courts as a reporter, advancing to night city editor.

The Brotherhood Commission, an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, enlisted Mr. Jennings in 1959 to organize and direct an editorial department to prepare missions materials for 600,000 Baptist men and boys. During a 22-year period with the Baptist agency, Mr. Jennings helped plan and direct eight national meetings for men and boys throughout the United States.

In 1981, Mr. Jennings was asked to establish a communications department at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis and launch a public relations program. With the establishment of the Baptist Memorial Health Care System two years later, Mr. Jennings added the public relations functions of the system to his duties.

From 1959 to 1992, Mr. Jennings directed news gathering teams at the annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention, using news writers from state and national Baptist agencies. When the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association sponsored 10-day meetings in 1983 and 1985 in Amsterdam, Holland for 4,000 evangelists from 200 countries, organizers asked Mr. Jennings to assemble a team of Southern Baptist news writers to provide news coverage for print media throughout the world.

Also active in local religious activities, Mr. Jennings was one

of only three laymen to serve as moderator of the 140-church Shelby Baptist Association during the last 80 years. He also chaired the association's finance committee and public relations committee for three years each.

He was a member and ordained deacon of Germantown Baptist Church. He also served on the 99-member executive board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. He was active in Germantown Kiwanis Club for 15 years and served as president in 1975-76 and was given a life membership. He also served as vice chairman of the Germantown 2004 Committee on Communications under Mayor Boyd Arthur.

Mr. Jennings was active locally and nationally in public relations. Accredited in public relations (APR), he served as president of the Memphis Chapter, Public Relations Society of America and as president of the Southern Baptist Public Rela-

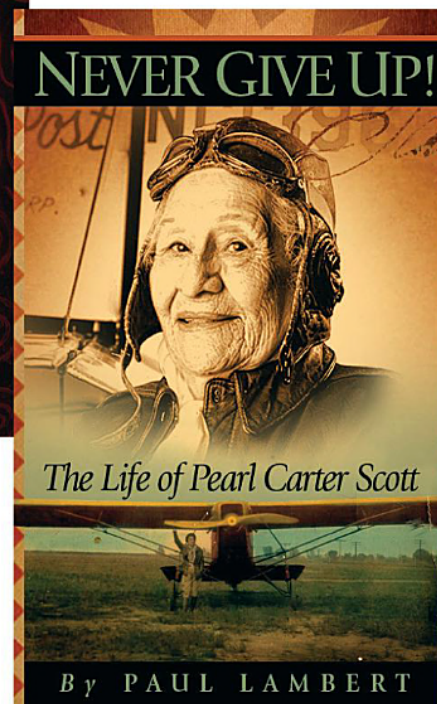
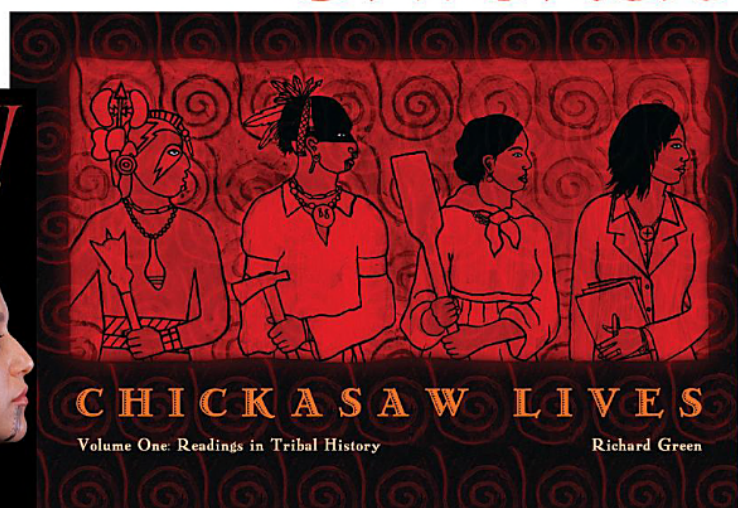
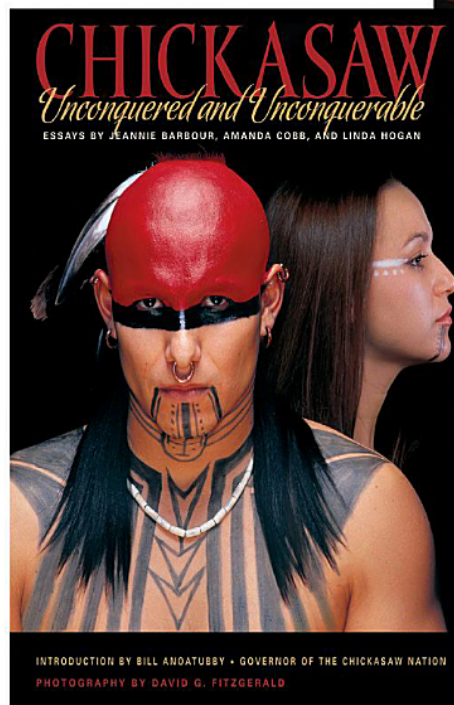
tions Associations, now Baptist Communications Association, a group of 300 Baptist public relations practitioners. He also taught a course public relations problem solving techniques at the University of Memphis.

Mr. Jennings leaves his wife of 63 years, Marye Kirksey Jennings, of Germantown; a daughter, Gail Jennings, of Rosewell Georgia; two brothers, Robert Jackson Jennings, of Davis, Oklahoma, and Richard Jennings, of Lancaster, Texas; four sisters, Mary Jesseph, of Oklahoma City, Carol Ann Shabbott, of North Richland Hills, Texas, and Susan Croley and Shirley McLean, both of Durant, Oklahoma.

The family requested in lieu of flowers that any memorials go to Okfuskee Creek Indian Baptist Church in Eufaula, Oklahoma where Mr. Jennings received some of early religious training or sent to Germantown Baptist Church in Germantown, Tennessee.

## The Chickasaw Nation

## Chickasaw Press



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